BARON MUNCHAUSEN'S NARRATIVE

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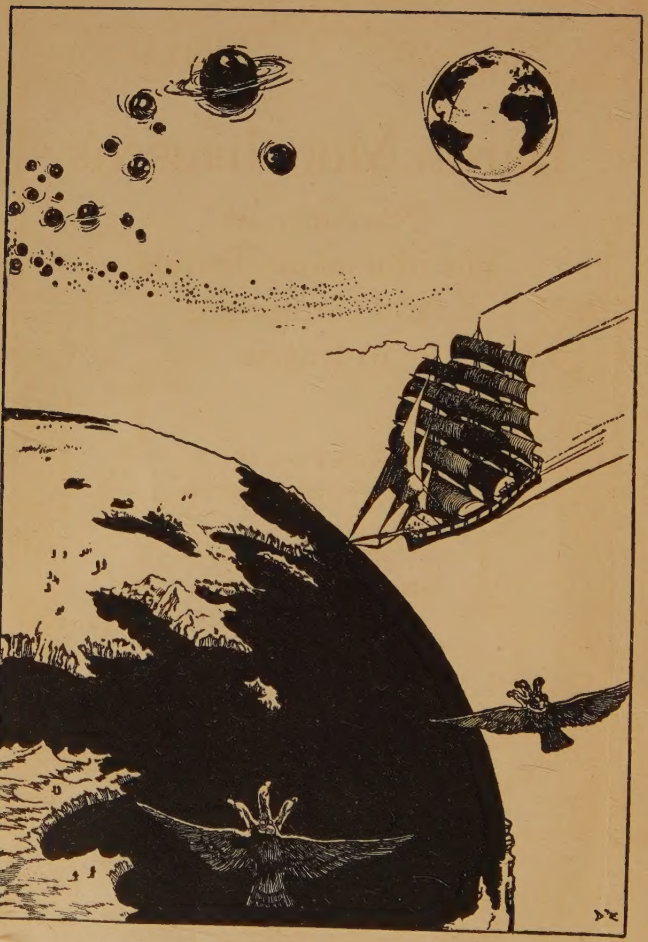

THE SECOND WAY TO THE MOON

Baron Munchausen's

Narrative of His Marvelous Travels And Campaigns in Russia

With Parts of the Supplements thereto

and Notes by

Steven T. Byington

Illustrated by Leon D'Emo

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PREFACE

Munchausen's modest seat in the Valhalla of classic literature is undisputed. The education that does not include a knowledge of the horse hitched to the steeple and the music frozen in the horn is as incomplete as that which has not learned of Don Quixote's windmills or the Barmecide's feast; more incomplete, it may safely be said, than one which has not heard of Parolles or Ithuriel, Blifil or Will Honeycomb, though the literature in which these names occur is greater than "Munchausen." The short time which the young may spend in becoming acquainted with this part of our fund of ideas will not be wasted; and as to any one who is bored by this reading, he is doubtless either a fool or a genius.

No country ought to be more hospitable to Munchausen than America; for since the days of Hiawatha's friend Iagoo our boundless range of soil and climate has produced in many a roving mind the same effect that the forests and steppes of Russia produced in Munchausen's. The Baron would surely have enjoyed living in that Western town where they cannot raise watermelons because, owing to the richness of the soil, the rapid growth of the vines carries the melons over the ground with a speed which bumps them to pieces; and a glow of sympathy would have

kept him warm through that Klondike winter in which the flames on the candles froze solid, and a swindler broke them off and sold them as strawberries. He would not even have to give up his favorite outdoor sport; for while I was preparing this edition the daily papers brought me the news that close to New York City a hunter shot a rabbit in two, and caught the hind-quarters, but the fore-quarters ran so fast that they escaped. And one of our nation's most familiar anecdotes attests Davy Crockett's marksmanship by the evidence of the raccoon which, recognizing the hunter, cried from its tree-top, "Don't shoot, colonel, I'll come down." Nor have our great classic humorists disdained to practice with the long bow; for instance, it was John Phœnix himself who bought a bottle of patent hair restorer, but accidentally smashed it on the stone doorstep of the hotel, with the result that the step became covered with a shaggy growth which the guests used for a door-mat. One might ask what need America has of importing a foreign Munchausen; but the fact remains that we all, regardless of what we ourselves can do, bow to the Baron as the patriarch, the perfect model, the fadeless fragrant flower, of liberty from accuracy.[1]

Doubtless the book will always be thought of mainly as a recreational piece of reading. But it has other values. The natural first step toward the reading of foreign languages, and that in which the first benefits of foreign-language study begin to be received,

[1] I do not cite Paul Bunyon, whose feats are more in the style of Hercules than of Munchausen.

is the reading of the English of the past. But the longer we live the more young people we find who are repelled by the "unnaturalness" of any language that professes to be plain English and yet is not what they themselves speak. Our text ought to be a useful first step for such; for its style was decidedly of its day rather than of all time, yet few books are better supplied with sugar-coating to commend this dose of language to unaccustomed palates. With this utility in view, punctuation (including hyphenation) and capitalization have here been kept as in an old edition; but spelling has been conformed to the latest unabridged dictionaries.

The present edition gives the real original "Munchausen" as nearly complete as an edition *virginibus puerisque* can; from the first supplements it gives liberal selections; from the last, scanty selections, as much as such stuff deserves. The notes and pronouncing vocabulary are conceived on the theory that the book will be read rapidly, that information necessary to the appreciation of the text should (with as little repetition as possible) be put where it is pretty certain to be found, and that the historical side-lights afforded by the Baron's allusions to the events of his times are to be picked up incidentally and not studied as a lesson. The principal backgrounds that need to be kept in mind in reading "Munchausen" are treated continuously instead of in numerous notes full of cross-references; in these accounts the effort has been made to exhibit some parts of the eighteenth century in a form which will, without special study, involuntarily

fix itself in the reader's memory. This does not mean that I advise the young reader to memorize any of it, especially the numerous dates; at most he might try to remember the date of the publication of "Munchausen" as a standard point to compare the other dates with, and he will thus be likely to remember in a rough general way the time of several events. Such association of events that happened at the same time is really the ideal way to learn chronology; the courts of law are wise in allowing great weight to the testimony of a woman who can say "I know that was the time because it was when Wallace was getting well of the measles, and I know what time of year that was because he had his worst day when I wanted to be picking the currants before they got too ripe."

STEVEN T. BYINGTON

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HOW THE STORIES CAME TO BE WRITTEN

Baron von Münchhausen[1] was a nobleman in Hanover, born in 1720, who went to Russia and served in the Russian army against the Turks. When he was forty years old he came home and settled down in Hanover for the rest of his life; and he formed a habit of amusing his friends and visitors by telling the most unheard-of stories about his hunting and fighting in Russia.

Now there was an ingenious rascal named Rudolf Erich Raspe, born in Hanover in 1737. He had a good education, especially in languages and natural science. He used to get a well-paid place on account of his skill as a specialist in precious stones, and keep the place till he was caught stealing stones or passing off coun-

[1] For pronunciation see pages 127, 131. The third edition of the book, in 1786, called the hero "Baron Munnikhouson, commonly pronounced Munchausen."—Note that although his name was Baron von Münchhausen, or, with his Christian name, Hieronymus Karl Friedrich von Münchhausen, he is properly spoken of as "Münchhausen" and not as "von Münchhausen." So with other German names. Many newspapers are careless about this, and put the "von" before a German nobleman's name when they are giving his last name only, just as they would if a title or Christian name had preceded it. And indeed the Germans themselves do not keep the rule as steadily as the French do in their language.

terfeit stones or something of that sort; then, of course, he would be discharged and have to live by writing books or whatever else he could do till he found somebody who wanted a precious-stone man and had not heard what a rascal Raspe was.

When Raspe was thirty-eight he went to England to get away from the police, and lived in England, Scotland, and Ireland till he died in 1794. While he was employed in an English copper and tin mine he remembered his old acquaintance Baron von Münchhausen, and thought he could make a little money by telling some of those stories; so he wrote the Munchausen book and sold it to a London publisher. He probably put in some of the real Baron's stories, and he also put in some others that he had heard in different places. They say the Baron was angry when he heard of it.

This book of Raspe's was very small, and nobody took much notice of it; but when Baron de Tott's book of travels was published, and people were talking of what a braggart Tott was, somebody thought he saw a chance to make money by publishing Raspe's stories again with things added to make fun of Tott. He took Raspe's book and put in a good deal out of the most famous old books of the same sort, and a good deal more out of his own head, with some lampoons on Tott himself, and published this.

Then Mr. James Bruce came home from Abyssinia with his stories of his travels there; and there was a feeling that his stories were too big to believe, especially about the people's eating raw meat. Bruce was a

fighting man six feet four inches tall, with a hot temper; and when so many laughed at his stories, Bruce began to want any man who laughed to fight a duel. Of course this set people to talking more and more, and to believing his stories less and less; for generally, the more you try to fight people who say you are lying, the more they will think that you really are lying. This gave somebody the idea of putting out the Munchausen book again, with a good deal added to bring it up to date, making fun of all the latest news of that time (this was in 1792) and especially of Bruce's travels; the title-page recommended that Bruce should pay some attention to the book.

So the Munchausen book as the world now has it is made up of the original little book as Raspe first published it in 1785, and the additions that were made in the next few years to make it bigger, and the other additions that were made in 1792 because Bruce's true stories about Abyssinia were too strange for people to believe. Raspe's own work is good and amusing; he was a rascal, but he knew what makes a good story. The really famous Munchausen stories, the ones that people talk about and expect you to understand about, are in this part. Pages 1–28 of this book are this part, and are nearly the whole of it; I have only left out a few bits that are in doubtful taste. The additions that were made next were not equally good, but they were not very bad either; on pages 29–87 we have a large part of them. The additions that were made last, in 1792, are worth very little. What fun there is in them belongs to the news of that time, and comes to nothing

now because we have forgotten that news; and they were very badly written, and must have been poor stuff even when they were new. Very much of them is in a queer flowery style, a bad imitation of what are called the Poems of Ossian, which were fashionable at that time; nobody cares to read such a style now. On pages 88–109, for samples to show what this part was like, we have a few bits that are as interesting as anything in these last additions. Since these are fragments picked out here and there in the book, it will be found that on these pages the new selection sometimes goes on not from the end of the preceding selection but from something which has been left out between the selections.

In 1786 (before the Flight on the Eagle was added, I believe) the book was translated into German. The German translator added a good many more stories and arranged all in a different order, mixing up the First Part and the Second Part and his own additions. In French and other languages the book is commonly translated from the German and not from the English, and probably many foreigners imagine that German was the original language of the book. Many of the German additions are good. Sometimes they are translated into English and printed as part of the English book; but it is more usual to give in English only what was originally written in English. None of the German additions are included in the book printed here.

WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN RUSSIA IN MUNCHAUSEN'S TIME

Munchausen has a good deal to say about the Russian affairs of his day, which everybody understood then but which most people have now forgotten.

The Turks were a great power, and held the north side of the Black Sea, in the days when Russia was on the way to be great. When Tsar Peter I was twenty-three years old, in 1695, he went down with an army to take Azof away from the Turks. He failed; the Turkish fleet gave Azof too much help. Peter had always liked ships and shipbuilding; he went back into Russia, spent the winter building a fleet on the river Don, and went down the river next year with his fleet and army and took Azof.

In those days almost all the provinces on the east coast of the Baltic Sea belonged to Sweden. Peter I, who is better known by the name Peter the Great, wanted to make Russia a civilized country like western Europe, and to have a seaport through which he could trade with the western nations. So, when a seventeen-year-old boy was king of Sweden, Peter joined with the king of Denmark and the king of Saxony and Poland in a scheme to make war on the boy and take whatever provinces they could get. But

the boy, King Charles XII, turned out to be a most wonderful general. He thrashed Denmark till she gave up everything for peace, then Saxony and Poland, and then began beating Peter in battle after battle. Peter had taken a few Baltic provinces while Charles was busy in Poland, and had founded a city there which he called in Dutch "Pieterburgh" after his own name; later the name of the city was changed to "St. Petersburg," still later, in our own time, to "Petrograd," and last of all to "Leningrad." Charles went into Russia to get his provinces back, and won battles till at length he grew reckless and went into battle without his cannon. Then he found that Peter, besides having more men, had up-to-date flintlock guns that would shoot five times as fast as the Swedes' guns. There was almost nothing left of Charles's army. Charles took refuge among the Turks, and persuaded them to make war on Peter for the sake of getting Azof back. Peter went down to fight the Turks along the river Pruth, and they got him in a trap where they could have killed or captured him and his whole army; but the Turkish general let him go on condition that he gave Azof back and yielded some other important things. This was in 1711.

During the long war Peter met a Lithuanian farmer's daughter named Catherine, who had been knocked about in various hard and degrading circumstances since she had been left an orphan. She had brains for governing an empire, and was just the wife that Peter wanted. In 1711 he divorced his wife and married Catherine. He gave orders that Catherine should be

MUNCHAUSEN'S PART OF RUSSIA

The heaviest boundary line is the boundary as it was when he first went there

his successor; so when he died in 1725 Catherine the First became Empress of Russia. She governed well, but she died herself in 1727.

Then Peter's twelve-year-old grandson was made tsar. When he was fifteen he died, and was succeeded by Peter's half-brother's daughter Anne, widow of the duke of Courland. She let the country be governed by an adventurer named Biren, who lived in magnificent style and oppressed the people wickedly; she made him duke of Courland. She put in charge of the army a German named Münnich, born about ninety miles from Münchhausen's home, who knew his business very well. In 1737 he took Ochakof from the Turks; at the end of that war Anne traded Ochakof for Azof.

In 1740 Anne died and left the empire to her eight-weeks-old great-nephew Ivan, son of the prince of Brunswick, with Biren as regent. Before the year was out, Münnich with his soldiers arrested Biren and sent him to Siberia (the Russians used often to send people to Siberia instead of putting them in prison) and made Ivan's mother Anna regent. Now there was one daughter of Peter the Great still alive, a lazy thirty-year-old named Elizabeth, who cared only for enjoying herself and paid no attention to what was happening to the government. In December, 1741, she found out that because she was Peter the Great's daughter Princess Anna was afraid of her and meant to put a stop to her enjoyments by shutting her up in a convent. Then Elizabeth shook off her laziness, and, without stopping to get up a conspiracy, called out a few friendly soldiers in the night, arrested the baby

tsar and his regent mother and Münnich and the other ministers, sent most of them to Siberia, and made herself empress. Little Ivan she put in prison, where he was kept so secretly that the commandant of the prison did not know who his prisoner was.

When Frederick the Great, king of Prussia, began his famous wars, Elizabeth joined with the other principal powers of the continent against him. But in 1762, when he seemed to be almost beaten, she died and left the throne to her rather weak-minded nephew Peter III, grandson of Peter the Great. Peter admired Frederick, and took Frederick's side in the war.

Peter's wife was a German princess; she had taken the name Catherine when she married him. After he had been tsar six months she put him in prison and made herself empress. Peter lived in prison nine days; then his wife's friends murdered him.

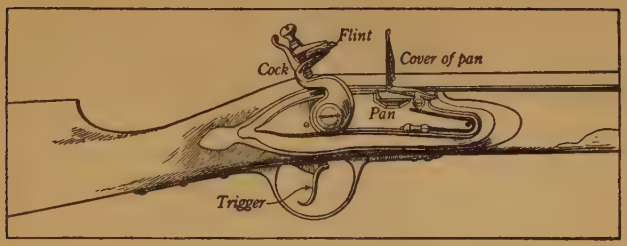
"Catherine the Great" was one of the most famous women who ever reigned over any country, because of her success as empress and because of all the gossip about her personal life. Munchausen says she made peace with the Turks on condition that he would marry her. The stories other people told about her were worse than this. She joined the king of Prussia and the empress of Austria in taking possession of Poland; Poland had grown too weak to resist, and the three divided it between them. She had wars with the Turks, and set Russia up as official protector of the Christian natives of Turkey. Her great general Suvarof took Ochakof from the Turks in 1788 and Izmail in 1790. At Izmail a tremendous number were

killed, both of soldiers in the fighting and of peaceable people in the plundering of the city after it was taken, and Suvarof sent the news to Catherine in a rime:

Glory to God and to you betide!
Izmail's taken, and I'm inside!

Peace was made in January, 1792, and Izmail was given back to the Turks, who kept it till 1809.

Catherine died in 1796 and her insane son Paul became tsar. He dismissed Suvarof. But when he wanted to make war against the French in 1798, and needed a good general, he sent Suvarof to Italy to take charge of the Russian and Austrian armies there. The Austrian soldiers were not worth much, but Suvarof pounded them into being hard fighters, and won great victories in Italy; for the best French general, Napoleon Bonaparte, was away in Egypt. But Suvarof was ordered out of Italy into Switzerland, where the French had a very good general. Before Suvarof learned how to fight among the mountains he lost his army. He died at home in 1800; by his orders the only inscription on his grave is "Here lies Suvarof." Ten months later the insane and cruel tsar was killed in his bedroom by one of his generals, and his son Alexander was made tsar.



THE BARON'S GUNS

When guns were invented, the powder and bullets or shot used to be put in at the muzzle of the gun; it was not till after 1840 that the idea of having the powder and bullet together in a cartridge, and slipping the cartridge in at the breech, was made to work properly. Men used to carry the powder in a "powder-flask" (which was often made of a cow's horn and was then called a "powder-horn"), and the bullets or shot in "pouches," one pouch for each size of shot that a man meant to use. They would pour into the muzzle of the gun a certain amount of powder, then put in a "wad" of paper or other soft material, ram it down tight with a long straight stick called a "ramrod" (at first the ramrods were wooden, but later they were made of iron), then put in the shot (if they used bullets, at first they put them in like shot, several bullets at once) and another wad, and ram down these too with the ramrod.

Then, in order to fire off the gun, there had to be some way to set the powder on fire. For this purpose

there was a small hole through one side of the breech of the gun, called a "touch-hole." When the powder was poured in and rammed down, some of the powder, if it was fine enough, would run into the hole and fill that up; and when a man aimed his gun he would uncover the hole and touch a live coal to the powder there, thus setting fire to all the powder. A little of the force of the powder would blow off through the hole, but most of it would go to sending the ball. In order to have a live coal always ready, a man would carry a piece of rope lighted at one end, made so as to smolder slowly and not go out. Such a piece of rope was called a "match," from the French word for lamp-wick. What we now call matches were not then invented; when they were invented, they were called matches because they were thought to be something like the gunner's match.

The powder that worked best in the gun was likely not to be fine enough to run into the hole. So, to save the trouble of pushing powder into the hole with a pin ("pricking it in"), they made a small "pan" at the outer end of the hole, and carried a little very fine powder to be poured into the pan where it could run down into the hole; this was called "priming" the gun. Some guns needed to have the priming pricked in even then.

In those days people used to light a fire by striking together a piece of flint and a piece of hard steel so that a spark flew off, and catching the spark. (Flint is a very hard stone, a sort of quartz; the glassy dots that you see in a piece of granite are quartz. All

quartz is apt to strike sparks, so you often get them from granite.) Somebody contrived a gun in which the cover of the pan was of hard steel, and there was a piece of flint fastened into what we should now call a hammer. In those days it used to be called a "cock"; from this we even now speak of "cocking" a gun. When the cover was raised and the trigger was pulled, the cock came down and struck the flint against the steel so as to throw down a spark or two, which struck a little wall behind the pan and bounded into the powder; and off went the gun, unless it "missed fire" (failed to make a spark) or "flashed in the pan" (burned the priming only, because of bad priming). This was the famous "flintlock" gun, a trusty weapon on the whole; it was the gun used by all the men in battles that are famous for having been decided by the absolute reliability of the shooting, such as the battles of Leuthen and New Orleans, and in such other famous fights as Bunker Hill and Waterloo, and it was the weapon of all America's famous old-time hunters.

Meanwhile cannon continued to be fired in the old way by applying a lighted match, as described above, to the touch-hole. It was more important to have the cannon never get out of order, in those days, than to save a little work in firing; and when a cannon was nothing but an iron log with a hole in it, it could not get out of order unless it was "spiked" by an enemy driving a steel plug into the touch-hole.

Such were the guns with which Munchausen fought his battles and killed his game.

ENGLAND'S NEWS IN MUNCHAUSEN'S TIME

The additions that were made to "Munchausen" after its first publication are like newspaper fun, full of hits at the things that everybody was talking about at the time; so anybody who wants to appreciate all the hits needs to know what was the news then in England.

In Queen Anne's time Spain wanted a king, and there was a dispute whether it should be the grandson of the king of France or the son of the German emperor. (The German emperors were usually Austrians, for Prussia was not yet a great power and Austria had not been separated from Germany.) The English and Dutch went to war to help the emperor, since they were afraid the king of France would have too much power. They took a great part of Spain, including Gibraltar, perhaps the strongest fort in the world, and Minorca, an island with the best harbor in the whole Mediterranean Sea. In 1713 they made peace and let the French prince be king of Spain; but England kept Gibraltar and Minorca, and they made Spain give Belgium to Austria (it was not till more than a hundred years later that Belgium became an independent country), while France gave Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and the Hudson Bay country to England.

Back in the year 1600 a law had been made in England to forbid anybody but one big company to trade with India or the East Indian islands; that used to be a fashionable way to encourage a big business. In 1670 another company was given the exclusive right to trade around Hudson Bay. Both companies had authority to defend themselves by having soldiers of their own, and to govern any cities or countries that came into their possession. The English did not want to fight, however, and when another war with France broke out in the time of King George I the French took Madras away from the English without much fighting. It was given back to the English at the end of that war, 1748.

The Great Mogul, the emperor of India, had little real power; the great lords were practically independent, and in western India a bunch of half-robber kingdoms called the Mahrattas were entirely independent. A Frenchman named Dupleix saw an opportunity here; he waited till there were two men claiming one of the local thrones, and then promised to help the claimant who had the worse chance, on condition that the French should have the real control of the government.

The English at Madras saw that they would be barred out of their chances to trade; so they backed the other claimant and sent money to hire a Mahratta chief to come and fight for them. The Mahratta took the money, but said that since the English did not fight for themselves he did not propose to do any fighting. Of course the French had everything their own

way. A bookkeeper at Madras, named Robert Clive, wanted to fight; the Frenchmen's candidate had gone to besiege a town and had left only eleven hundred soldiers in Arcot, his capital, and Clive said a few men could take Arcot. He got leave to take two hundred white men and three hundred brown men and try. When he took Arcot he had a hundred and twenty white men and two hundred brown men left; the French and their friend brought ten thousand men to take the city back. Clive's men starved, but kept fighting. The brown men told Clive "Your white men need solid food; give them the rice, give us the water it was boiled in, and we will fight on that." The news of Clive's fight went all over India, and the Mahratta who had the English money said that if it was such a fight as that, he was coming to be in it. The besiegers heard, and tried to storm Arcot. Clive did not have men enough to occupy such long walls; he had to work a cannon with his own hands on the day of the great attack; but he held out all day. Next morning the besiegers were gone, and the Mahratta helpers came. The French campaign broke down, and the British empire in India began.

Brieg was a small part of Silesia. In 1537 the independent duke of Brieg promised that if his family died out, Brieg should belong to Brandenburg. In 1675 the Brieg family died out; then the archduke of Austria, who was German emperor, took Brieg without paying any attention to Brandenburg's claim, and called it part of Austria. Brandenburg grew strong, and changed its name to Prussia. In 1740 the old

rulers of Austria and Prussia died; the new king of Prussia was Frederick the Great, the new archduchess of Austria was a beautiful girl named Maria Theresa; the Germans did not elect women to the position of emperor, and Frederick was stronger than Maria Theresa and took Brieg. Maria Theresa worked till she got almost all the principal powers of Europe to help her in a war to get it back; only England took Frederick's side because France was on the other side. The war is called in European history the Seven Years' War, in American history the French and Indian War. Prussia suffered cruelly; but when peace was made in 1763 Prussia was winner and kept almost the whole of Silesia, and England got the whole of Canada from France. Then the Hudson's Bay Company began to prosper greatly; it controlled all the trade of Canada north and west of the Great Lakes, and governed all that country wherever there were any white men to govern, clear down to Oregon; the United States had hard work to get Oregon away from the Hudson's Bay Company in 1843–1846.

In India the East India Company's men took all the French settlements as soon as they heard of the war. This got them into a war with Bengal. The men at Madras sent Clive as general. The armies met at Plassey. The prince of Bengal had a great army, with Frenchmen to handle his cannon; Clive had a small force; but some generals in the Bengal army had promised the English that they would turn traitors in the battle. Nobody was sure what these men would really do. Clive called a council of war; some of the

best officers thought they ought to fight, Clive thought it would be too risky, and the majority agreed with Clive that they should not fight. Clive thought it over at night, and in the morning he led his army out and fought. The principal traitor kept his soldiers out of the fight, and the English won. From this time on, the English were the great power in India.

When Clive was in Arcot, a young man named Hyder Ali was beginning to make himself ruler of Mysore. He was friendly with the English at first; but in 1767, the year when Clive went home to England for the last time, the English quarreled with Hyder Ali, and he was the most terrible enemy that they ever met in India. He died in the middle of his second war with the English, leaving his power to his son Tippoo Sahib. Tippoo made peace in two years, but made another war five years later; peace was made in 1792, the year when the last part of "Munchausen" was written. He fought once more, and was killed in battle (1799).

King George the Third began his long reign over England in the middle of the Seven Years' War. It was against him that our country fought the Revolutionary War. The British were much more powerful than the Americans; if they had had Clive for general they might have beaten George Washington, and America never have been a free nation. But Clive shot himself five months before the Revolutionary War broke out.

Instead of Clive the British had Burgoyne and Howe. Orders were made out in London that Bur-

goyne and Howe should bring their armies together near Albany. Lord George Germain had to sign the orders. He was on his way to a short vacation; the order to Howe had not been copied ready for signing. Lord George hated to have anybody interfere with his plans, so he went on his vacation, and when he came back the order to Howe was forgotten. Somebody had sent Howe something, but not enough to make him move. Burgoyne had to fight alone, and lost his army. When the king of France heard that Burgoyne's army was lost, he agreed to help the Americans against the English; and so did the king of Spain, partly because he was cousin to the king of France, partly because he wanted to get back Gibraltar and Minorca. And the French stirred up Hyder Ali to make his second war on the English in India.

In America the fighting ended in 1781; but in Spain and India it lasted longer. The Spaniards took Minorca in 1782, and kept it. Gibraltar was too strong for them. The siege of Gibraltar began in July, 1779. In December the defenders were short of food, but in January Admiral Rodney fought his way through and brought them food and other things they needed. In 1780 there was scurvy (see page 123) in Gibraltar. In 1782 the Spaniards made their greatest attack; the English beat them off with red-hot cannon-balls. When peace was made between England and America in 1783, Spain had to make peace too, and the English in Gibraltar were still holding out.

A great enthusiasm for discovering unknown countries broke out in England about 1740 with the voy-

ages that found the islands of the Pacific Ocean. The greatest of these were the voyages of Captain James Cook, who proved New Zealand to be a group of islands (1768), explored the east coast of Australia (1770) and made Australia a British possession, crossed the Antarctic Circle (1773; it had never before been crossed by any human being), discovered Hawaii (1776), and was killed by the Hawaiians on his way home. Perhaps the most wonderful thing Captain Cook did, when you consider how men used to die of scurvy on other ships at that time, was that he took such perfect care of the health of his crew that only one man died in a voyage of a thousand days. By these voyages the world learned about the bread-fruit, the principal food of the Pacific islanders; and Lieutenant Bligh, who had sailed on Cook's second voyage, was sent to bring bread-fruit trees to the British colonies in the West Indies. His sailors mutinied and put him out in a small boat with a few of his friends; the boat sailed 4000 miles, and Bligh got safe home to England in 1790. He was at once given another ship, with which he successfully brought the bread-fruit to the West Indies. The Arctic coasts were explored by Hudson's Bay Company men on land and by whaling ships at sea, since the whalers had found out that Arctic right whales were bigger than Atlantic right whales and had longer whalebone. In 1773 Captain Phipps was sent on the first exploring expedition that ever started to reach the north pole; previous explorers had been looking for "the northwest passage," that is, a way to sail around the north side of North

America from England to China. (This, if the ice did not make it impossible, would be much shorter than sailing through either the Suez Canal or the Panama Canal.) Phipps started in June, went north to where the sea was covered with ice twenty-four feet thick, then turned back, and reached home in September. In Africa, the Scotch adventurer James Bruce set out to find the source of the Nile, and found the source of the Blue Nile in Abyssinia (what is now called Ethiopia) in 1770; he came home in 1774 and told his story, but did not tell it in print till 1790, when he published it in five volumes.

The world, especially England, was full of new ideas then, getting ready for the wonderful progress of the nineteenth century. Great inventions were being made; the steam engine was invented in 1768. Dollond, a London optician, invented the achromatic telescope (that is, a telescope that does not show a rainbow-colored edge to every bright object) in 1757. For many years the way to say that your spy-glass was one of the best was to say that Dollond made it; therefore of course Munchausen's glass was a Dollond. Balloons were invented by the French in 1783. Canals were being dug through England, beginning in 1761; the English were so enthusiastic for canals that even in 1824, after several railroads had been built, the Encyclopædia Britannica said railroads could never be nearly so useful as canals.

There was a lively spirit of religion in England; the preaching of Whitefield and the Wesleys had stirred the people up. There was a lively interest in

doing good. There was a great love of liberty and willingness to work for it; the Americans would never have won the Revolutionary War if this liberty-loving spirit had not made so many Englishmen friendly to the American cause. In 1788 the first move against the slave trade was made in Parliament, and in 1792 the trade was prohibited. In 1773 a gentleman named Howard was appointed sheriff of Bedford; when he saw how the jail was managed he went all over England looking at county jails, and told such things about them that he set the world to trying to make prisons decent. One result was that the English resolved not to keep in prison the men who were sentenced for long terms, but to carry them off to Captain Cook's new country of Australia instead; they started their first settlement in 1788 close to Botany Bay, about where Sydney is now. But when they saw what a fine country it was, honest men began to go out there too; the first settlers who were not criminals went in 1793.

Foreign missionary work was being begun, although some blunders were made while people were new to it. Captain Cook, who made his first visit to Tahiti ("Otaheite" was the way he wrote the name) in 1769, brought home a man named Omai, the first islander of the Pacific Ocean who ever came to England. Omai was to be educated in England and then sent back to civilize and Christianize his people. Cook carried him back to his island in 1776; but the islanders thought it absurd that a man like Omai, who was not of the king's family, should act as if he was a superior

person. There was nothing about Omai that they cared for except the presents that the English had given him; and they very soon got these presents away from him. Omai's civilization and Christianity were not stiff enough to stand up when he had no civilized and Christian company, and in a little while he became a lower-class savage again, neither better nor worse for having been to England. It was some time before the English found this out; they imagined for years that Omai was probably doing great things around Tahiti. Today missionaries do not carry savages to the white man's country but educate them in their own country, and the education lasts better.

Such were the times in which "Munchausen" was written. At first it was only a few big stories about the life of a hunter, soldier, and traveler; but the men who added chapters to it kept bringing in more and more about the English soldiers and travelers of their time, and then about the ideas of their time, till the real Munchausen stories were quite covered up with these additions.

BARON MUNCHAUSEN

TO THE PUBLIC

HAVING heard, for the first time, that my adventures have been doubted, and looked upon as jokes, I feel bound to come forward and vindicate my character *for veracity*, by paying three shillings at the Mansion House of this great city for the affidavits hereto appended.

This I have been forced into in regard of my own honor, although I have retired for many years from public and private life; and I hope that this, my last edition, will place me in a proper light with my readers.

AT THE CITY OF LONDON, ENGLAND

We, the undersigned, as true believers in the *profit*, do most solemnly affirm, that all the adventures of our friend Baron Munchausen, in whatever country they may *lie*, are positive and simple facts. *And*, as we have been believed, whose adventures are tenfold more wonderful, *so* do we hope all true believers will give him their full faith and credence.

GULLIVER. ×
SINDBAD. ×
ALADDIN. ×

Sworn at the Mansion House
9th Nov. last, in the absence
of the Lord Mayor.
JOHN (*the Porter*).

BARON MUNCHAUSEN'S NARRATIVE

THE BARON PROVES HIMSELF A GOOD SHOT

WHEN I was neither man nor boy, but between both, I felt a strong desire of seeing the world.

I set off from Rome on a journey to Russia, in the midst of winter, from a just notion that frost and snow must of course mend the roads, which every traveler had described as uncommonly bad through the northern parts of Germany, Poland, Courland, and Livonia. I went on horseback, as the most convenient manner of traveling.

On my way through Poland darkness overtook me one evening, when no village was to be seen. The country was covered with snow, and I was unacquainted with the road.

Tired, I alighted, and fastened my horse to something like a pointed stump of a tree, which appeared above the snow; for the sake of safety I placed my pistols under my arm, and laid down on the snow, where I slept so soundly that I did not open my eyes till full daylight. It is not easy to conceive my astonishment to find myself in the midst of a village, lying in a churchyard; nor was my horse to be seen, but I heard him soon after neigh somewhere above me. On looking upwards I beheld him hanging by his bridle to the weather-cock of the steeple. Matters were now very plain to me: the village had been covered with snow overnight; a sudden change of weather had taken place; I had sunk down to the churchyard whilst asleep, gently, and in the same proportion as the snow had melted away; and what in the dark I had taken to be a stump of a little tree appearing above the snow, to which I had tied my horse, proved to have been the cross or weather-cock of the steeple!

Without long consideration I took one of my pistols, shot the bridle in two, brought down the horse, and proceeded on my journey.

I HAD TIED MY HORSE

HE LOSES HIS HORSE AND FINDS A WOLF

He carried me well—advancing into the interior parts of Russia. I found traveling on horseback rather unfashionable in winter, therefore I submitted, as I always do, to the custom of the country, took a single horse sledge, and drove briskly towards St. Petersburg. I do not exactly recollect whether it was in Eastland or Ingermanland, but I remember that in the midst of a dreary forest I spied a terrible wolf making after me, with all the speed of ravenous winter hunger. He soon overtook me. There was no possibility of escape. Mechanically I laid myself down flat in the sledge, and let my horse run for our safety. What I wished, but hardly hoped or expected, happened immediately after. The wolf did not mind me in the least, but took a leap over me, and falling furiously on the horse began instantly to tear and devour the hind-part of the poor animal, which ran the faster for his pain and terror. Thus unnoticed and safe myself, I lifted my head slyly up, and with horror I beheld that the wolf had ate his way into the horse's body; it

was not long before he had fairly forced himself into it, when I took my advantage, and fell upon him with the butt-end of my whip. This unexpected attack in his rear frightened him so much, that he leaped forward with all his might: the horse's carcase dropped on the ground, but in his place the wolf was in the harness, and I on my part whipping him continually: we both arrived in full career safe to St. Petersburg, contrary to our respective expectations, and very much to the astonishment of the spectators.

A NEW WAY TO FIRE A GUN

It was some time before I could obtain a commission in the army, and for several months I was perfectly at liberty to sport away my time and money in the most gentleman-like manner. You may easily imagine that I spent much of both out of town with such gallant fellows as knew how to make the most of an open forest country. The very recollection of those amusements gives me fresh spirits, and creates a warm wish for a repetition of them. One morning I saw, through the windows

of my bed-room, that a large pond not far off was covered with wild ducks. In an instant I took my gun from the corner, ran down stairs and out of the house in such a hurry that I imprudently struck my face against the door-post. Fire flew out of my eyes, but it did not prevent my intention; I soon came within shot, when, leveling my piece, I observed to my sorrow, that even the flint had sprung from the cock by the violence of the shock I had just received. There was no time to be lost. I presently remembered the effect it had on my eyes, therefore opened the pan, leveled my piece against the wild fowls, and my fist against one of my eyes. A hearty blow drew sparks again; the shot went off, and I killed fifty brace of ducks, twenty widgeons, and three couple of teals.

ADVENTURES WITH WILD HOGS

Chance and good luck often correct our mistakes; of this I had a singular instance soon after, when, in the depth of a forest, I saw a wild pig and sow running close behind each other. My ball had missed them, yet the fore-

THE SHOT WENT OFF

most pig only ran away, and the sow stood motionless, as fixed to the ground. On examining into the matter, I found the latter one to be an old sow, blind with age, which had taken hold of her pig's tail, in order to be led along by filial duty. My ball, having passed between the two, had cut his leading-string, which the old sow continued to hold in her mouth; and as her former guide did not draw her on any longer, she had stopped of course; I therefore laid hold of the remaining end of the pig's tail, and led the old beast home without any farther trouble on my part, and without any reluctance or apprehension on the part of the helpless old animal.

Terrible as these wild sows are, yet more fierce and dangerous are the boars, one of which I had once the misfortune to meet in a forest, unprepared for attack or defense. I retired behind an oak-tree just when the furious animal leveled a side-blow at me, with such force, that his tusks pierced through the tree, by which means he could neither repeat the blow nor retire. Ho, ho! thought I, I shall soon have you now! and immediately I laid hold of a

stone, wherewith I hammered and bent his tusks in such a manner, that he could not retreat by any means, and must wait my return from the next village, whither I went for ropes and a cart, to secure him properly, and to carry him off safe and alive, in which I perfectly succeeded.

HE SHOOTS A DEER WITH CHERRY-STONES

You have heard, I dare say, of the hunter and sportsman's saint and protector, St. Hubert, and of the noble stag, which appeared to him in the forest, with the holy cross between his antlers. I have paid my homage to that saint every year in good fellowship, and seen this stag a thousand times, either painted in churches, or embroidered in the stars of his knights; so that, upon the honor and conscience of a good sportsman, I hardly know whether there may not have been formerly, or whether there are not such crossed stags even at this present day. But let me rather tell what I have seen myself. Having one day spent all my shot, I found myself unexpectedly in presence of a stately stag, looking at me as unconcernedly as if he had known of my empty pouches. I charged immediately

with powder, and upon it a good handful of cherry-stones, for I had sucked the fruit as far as the hurry would permit. Thus I let fly at him, and hit him just on the middle of the forehead, between his antlers; it stunned him—he staggered—yet he made off. A year or two after, being with a party in the same forest, I beheld a noble stag with a fine full-grown cherry-tree above ten feet high between his antlers. I immediately recollected my former adventure, looked upon him as my property, and brought him to the ground by one shot, which at once gave me the haunch and cherry-sauce; for the tree was covered with the richest fruit, the like I had never tasted before. Who knows but some passionate holy sportsman, or sporting abbot or bishop, may have shot, planted, and fixed the cross between the antlers of St. Hubert's stag, in a manner similar to this? In a case of distress or dilemma, which too often happens to keen sportsmen, one is apt to grasp at anything for safety, and to try any expedient rather than miss the favorable opportunity. I have many times found myself in that trying situation.

I LOOKED UPON HIM AS MY PROPERTY

THE END OF A WOLF

There is a kind of fatality in it. The fiercest and most dangerous animals generally came upon me when defenseless, as if they had a notion or an instinctive intimation of it. Thus a frightful wolf rushed upon me so suddenly, and so close, that I could do nothing but follow mechanical instinct, and thrust my fist into his open mouth. For safety's sake I pushed on and on, till my arm was fairly in up to the shoulder. How should I disengage myself? I was not much pleased with my awkward situation—with a wolf face to face; our ogling was not of the most pleasant kind. If I withdrew my arm, then the animal would fly the more furiously upon me; that I saw in his flaming eyes. In short, I laid hold of his tail, turned him inside out like a glove, and flung him to the ground, where I left him.

A FUR CLOAK GOES WRONG

The same expedient would not have answered against a mad dog, which soon after came running against me in a narrow street at St. Peters-

burg. Run who can, I thought; and to do this the better, I threw off my fur cloak, and was safe within doors in an instant. I sent my servant for the cloak, and he put it in the wardrobe with my other clothes. The day after I was amazed and frightened by Jack's bawling, "Sir, your fur cloak is mad!" I hastened up to him, and found almost all my clothes tossed about and torn to pieces. The fellow was perfectly right in his apprehensions about the fur cloak's madness. I saw him myself just then falling upon a fine full-dress suit, which he shook and tossed in an unmerciful manner.

A VERY NOTABLE GREYHOUND

All these narrow and lucky escapes, gentlemen, were chances turned to advantage by presence of mind and vigorous exertions, which, taken together, as everybody knows, make the fortunate sportsman, sailor, and soldier; but he would be a very blamable and imprudent sportsman, admiral, or general, who would always depend upon chance and his stars, without troubling himself about those arts which are their particular pursuits, and without providing

the very best implements, which insure success. I was not blamable either way; for I have always been as remarkable for the excellency of my horses, dogs, guns, and swords, as for the proper manner of using and managing them, so that upon the whole I may hope to be remembered in the forest, upon the turf, and in the field. I shall not enter here into any detail of my stables, kennel, or armory; but a favorite greyhound of mine I cannot help mentioning to you; I never had or saw a better. She grew old in my service, and was not remarkable for her size, but rather for her uncommon swiftness. I always coursed with her. Had you seen her you must have admired her, and would not have wondered at my predilection, and at my coursing her so much. She ran so fast, so much, and so long in my service, that she actually ran off her legs; so that, in the latter part of her life, I was under the necessity of working and using her only as a terrier, in which quality she still served me many years.

HOW THE BARON GOT HIS HORSE

I remember this, my wonderful greyhound, with the same pleasure and tenderness as a superb Lithuanian horse, which no money could have bought. He became mine by an accident, which gave me an opportunity of showing my horsemanship to a great advantage. I was at Count Przobossky's noble country-seat in Lithuania, and remained with the ladies at tea in the drawing-room, while the gentlemen were down in the yard, to see a young horse of blood which had just arrived from the stud. We suddenly heard a noise of distress; I hastened down stairs, and found the horse so unruly, that nobody durst approach or mount him. The most resolute horsemen stood dismayed and aghast; despondency was expressed in every countenance, when, in one leap, I was on his back, took him by surprise, and worked him quite into gentleness and obedience, with the best display of horsemanship I was master of. Fully to show this to the ladies, and save them unnecessary trouble, I forced him to leap in at one of the open windows of the tea-room, walked round

AMAZINGLY WELL

several times, pace, trot, and gallop, and at last made him mount the tea-table, there to repeat his lessons in a pretty style of miniature which was exceedingly pleasing to the ladies, for he performed them amazingly well, and did not break either cup or saucer. It placed me so high in their opinion, and so well in that of the noble lord, that, with his usual politeness, he begged I would accept of this young horse, and ride him full career to conquest and honor in the campaign against the Turks, which was soon to be opened, under the command of Count Munich.

THE BARON'S FIRST CAMPAIGN

I could not indeed have received a more agreeable present, nor a more ominous one at the opening of that campaign, in which I made my apprenticeship as a soldier. A horse so gentle, so spirited, and so fierce—at once a lamb and a Bucephalus—put me always in mind of the soldier's and the gentleman's duty! of young Alexander, and of the astonishing things he performed in the field.

We took the field, among several other rea-

sons, it seems, with an intention to retrieve the character of the Russian arms, which had been blemished a little by Czar Peter's last campaign on the Pruth; and this we fully accomplished by several very fatiguing and glorious campaigns under the command of that great general I mentioned before.

Modesty forbids individuals to arrogate to themselves great successes or victories, the glory of which is generally engrossed by the commander—nay, which is rather awkward, by kings and queens who never smelt gunpowder but at the field-days and reviews of their troops; never saw a field of battle, or an enemy in battle array.

THE HORSE'S LAURELS

Nor do I claim any particular share of glory in the great engagements with the enemy. We all did our duty, which, in the patriot's, soldier's, and gentleman's language, is a very comprehensive word, of great honor, meaning, and import, and of which the generality of idle quidnuncs and coffee-house politicians can hardly form any but a very mean and contemptible idea.

However, having had the command of a body of hussars, I went upon several expeditions, with discretionary powers; and the success I then met with is, I think, fairly and only to be placed to my account, and to that of the brave fellows whom I led on to conquest and to victory. We had very hot work once in the van of the army, when we drove the Turks into Ochakof. My spirited Lithuanian had almost brought me into a scrape: I had an advanced fore-post, and saw the enemy coming against me in a cloud of dust, which left me rather uncertain about their actual numbers and real intentions: to wrap myself up in a similar cloud was common prudence, but would not have much advanced my knowledge, or answered the end for which I had been sent out; therefore I let my flankers on both wings spread to the right and left, and make what dust they could, and I myself led on straight upon the enemy, to have a nearer sight of them: in this I was gratified, for they stood and fought, till, for fear of my flankers, they began to move off rather disorderly. This was the moment to fall upon them with spirit; we broke them entirely

—made a terrible havoc amongst them, and drove them not only back to a walled town in their rear, but even through it, contrary to our most sanguine expectation.

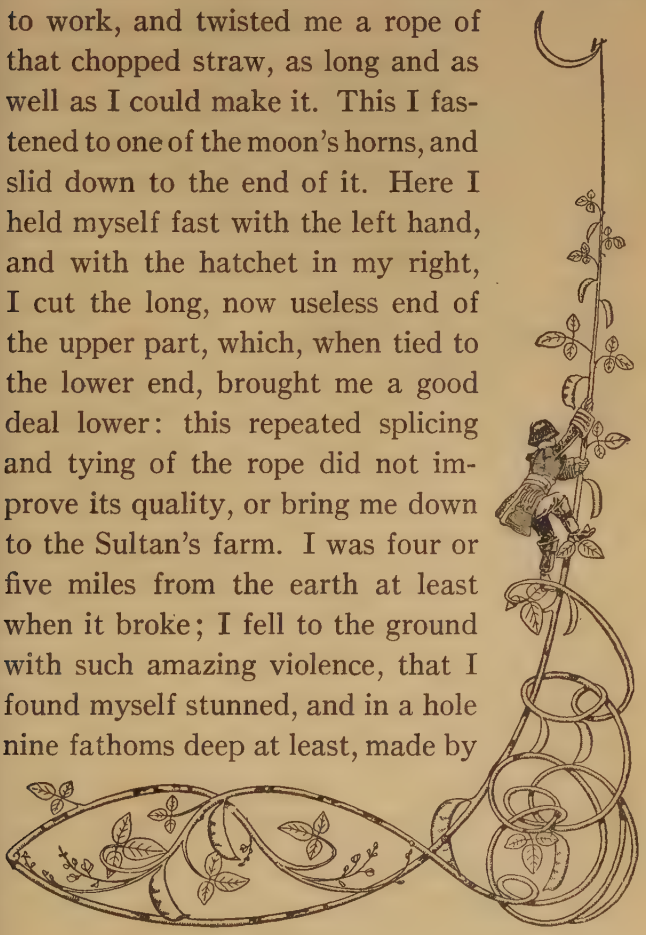
The swiftness of my Lithuanian enabled me to be foremost in the pursuit; and seeing the enemy fairly flying through the opposite gate, I thought it would be prudent to stop in the market-place, to order the men to rendezvous. I stopped, gentlemen; but judge of my astonishment when in this market-place I saw not one of my hussars about me! Are they scouring the other streets? or what is become of them? They could not be far off, and must, at all events, soon join me. In that expectation I walked my panting Lithuanian to a spring in this market-place, and let him drink. He drank uncommonly, with an eagerness not to be satisfied, but natural enough; for when I looked round for my men, what should I see, gentlemen! the hind part of the poor creature—croup and legs were missing, as if he had been cut in two, and the water ran out as it came in, without refreshing or doing him any good! How it could have happened was quite a

mystery to me, till I returned with him to the town-gate. There I saw, that when I rushed in pell-mell with the flying enemy, they had dropped the portcullis, unperceived by me, which had totally cut off his hind part, that still lay quivering on the outside of the gate. It would have been an irreparable loss, had not our farrier contrived to bring both parts together while hot. He sewed them up with sprigs and young shoots of laurels that were at hand; the wound healed, and, what could not have happened but to so glorious a horse, the sprigs took root in his body, grew up, and formed a bower over me; so that afterwards I could go upon many other expeditions in the shade of my own and my horse's laurels.

Success was not always with me. I had the misfortune to be overpowered by numbers, to be made prisoner of war; and, what is worse, but always usual among the Turks, to be sold for a slave. In that state of humiliation my daily task was not very hard and laborious, but rather singular and irksome. It was to drive

the Sultan's bees every morning to their pasture-grounds, to attend them all the day long, and against night to drive them back to their hives. One evening I missed a bee, and soon observed that two bears had fallen upon her to tear her to pieces for the honey she carried. I had nothing like an offensive weapon in my hands but the silver hatchet, which is the badge of the Sultan's gardeners and farmers. I threw it at the robbers, with an intention to frighten them away, and set the poor bee at liberty; but, by an unlucky turn of my arm, it flew upwards, and continued rising till it reached the moon. How should I recover it? how fetch it down again? I recollected that Turkey-beans grow very quick, and run up to an astonishing height. I planted one immediately; it grew, and actually fastened itself to one of the moon's horns. I had no more to do now but to climb up by it into the moon, where I safely arrived, and had a troublesome piece of business before I could find my silver hatchet, in a place where every thing has the brightness of silver; at last, however, I found it in a heap of chaff and chopped straw. I was now for returning: but,

alas! the heat of the sun had dried up my bean; it was totally useless for my descent: so I fell to work, and twisted me a rope of that chopped straw, as long and as well as I could make it. This I fastened to one of the moon's horns, and slid down to the end of it. Here I held myself fast with the left hand, and with the hatchet in my right, I cut the long, now useless end of the upper part, which, when tied to the lower end, brought me a good deal lower: this repeated splicing and tying of the rope did not improve its quality, or bring me down to the Sultan's farm. I was four or five miles from the earth at least when it broke; I fell to the ground with such amazing violence, that I found myself stunned, and in a hole nine fathoms deep at least, made by



the weight of my body falling from so great a height: I recovered, but knew not how to get out again; however, I dug slopes or steps with my finger nails, and easily accomplished it.

A VERY COLD WINTER

Peace was soon after concluded with the Turks, and gaining my liberty, I left St. Petersburg at the time of that singular revolution, when the emperor in his cradle, his mother, the Duke of Brunswick, her father, Field-Marshal Munich, and many others were sent to Siberia. The winter was then so uncommonly severe all over Europe, that ever since the sun seems to be frost-bitten. At my return to this place, I felt on the road greater inconveniences than those I had experienced on my setting out.

PASSING IN A NARROW ROAD.—COLD-STORAGE MUSIC

I traveled post, and finding myself in a narrow lane, bid the postilion give a signal with his horn, that other travelers might not meet us in the narrow passage. He blew with all his

might; but his endeavors were in vain, he could not make the horn sound, which was unaccountable, and rather unfortunate, for soon after we found ourselves in the presence of another coach coming the other way: there was no proceeding; however, I got out of my carriage, and being pretty strong, placed it, wheels and all, upon my head: I then jumped over a hedge about nine feet high into a field, and came out again by another jump into the road beyond the other carriage: I then went back for the horses, and placing one upon my head, and the other under my left arm, by the same means brought them to my coach, put to, and proceeded to an inn at the end of our stage. I should have told you that the horse under my arm was very spirited, and not above four years old; in making my second spring over the hedge, he expressed great dislike to that violent kind of motion by kicking and snorting; however, I confined his hind legs by putting them into my coat-pocket. After we arrived at the inn my postilion and I refreshed ourselves: he hung his horn on a peg near the kitchen fire; I sat on the other side.

Suddenly we heard a *tereng! tereng! teng! teng!* We looked round, and now found the reason why the postilion had not been able to sound his horn; his tunes were frozen up in the horn, and came out now by thawing, plain enough, and much to the credit of the driver; so that the honest fellow entertained us for some time with a variety of tunes, without putting his mouth to the horn—The King of Prussia's March—Over the Hill and over the Dale—with many other favorite tunes; at length the thawing entertainment concluded, as I shall this short account of my Russian travels.

PART II

MUNCHAUSEN AT THE SIEGE OF GIBRALTAR

DURING the late siege of Gibraltar I went with a provision-fleet, under Lord Rodney's command, to see my old friend General Elliot, who has, by his distinguished defense of that place, acquired laurels that can never fade. After the usual joy which generally attends the meeting of old friends had subsided, I went to examine the state of the garrison, and view the operations of the enemy, for which purpose the General accompanied me. I had brought a most excellent refracting telescope with me from London, purchased of Dollond, by the help of which I found the enemy were going to discharge a thirty-six pounder at the spot where we stood. I told the General what they were about; he looked through the glass also, and found my conjectures right. I immediately, by his permission, ordered a forty-

eight pounder to be brought from a neighboring battery, which I placed with so much exactness (having long studied the art of gunnery) that I was sure of my mark.

I continued watching the enemy till I saw the match placed at the touch-hole of their piece; at that very instant I gave the signal for our gun to be fired also.

About midway between the two pieces of cannon the balls struck each other with amazing force, and the effect was astonishing! The enemy's ball recoiled back with such violence as to kill the man who had discharged it, by carrying his head fairly off, with sixteen others which it met with in its progress to the Barbary coast, where its force, after passing through three masts of vessels that then lay in a line behind each other in the harbor, was so much spent, that it only broke its way through the roof of a poor laborer's hut, about two hundred yards inland, and destroyed a few teeth an old woman had left, who lay asleep upon her back with her mouth open. The ball lodged in her throat. Her husband soon after came home, and endeavored to extract it; but finding that

THE BALLS STRUCK EACH OTHER

impracticable, by the assistance of a rammer he forced it into her stomach. Our ball did excellent service; for it not only repelled the other in the manner just described, but, proceeding as I intended it should, it dismounted the very piece of cannon that had just been employed against us, and forced it into the hold of the ship, where it fell with so much force as to break its way through the bottom. The ship immediately filled and sank, with above a thousand Spanish sailors on board, besides a considerable number of soldiers. This, to be sure, was a most extraordinary exploit; I will not, however, take the whole merit to myself; my judgment was the principal engine, but chance assisted me a little; for I afterwards found that the man who charged our forty-eight pounder put in, by mistake, a double quantity of powder, else we could never have succeeded so much beyond all expectation, especially in repelling the enemy's ball.

General Elliot would have given me a commission for this piece of service; but I declined everything, except his thanks, which I received at a crowded table of officers at supper.

MUNCHAUSEN AND THE POLAR BEARS

We all remember Captain Phipps's (now Lord Mulgrave) last voyage of discovery to the north. I accompanied the captain, not as an officer, but a private friend. When we arrived in a high northern latitude I was viewing the objects around me with the telescope which I introduced to your notice in my Gibraltar adventures. I thought I saw two large white bears in violent action upon a body of ice considerably above the masts, and about half a league distance. I immediately took my carbine, slung it across my shoulder, and ascended the ice. When I arrived at the top, the unevenness of the surface made my approach to those animals troublesome and hazardous beyond expression: sometimes hideous cavities opposed me, which I was obliged to spring over; in other parts the surface was as smooth as a mirror, and I was continually falling: as I approached near enough to reach them, I found they were only at play. I immediately began to calculate the value of their skins, for they were each as large as a well-fed ox: unfortu-

nately, at the very instant I was presenting my carbine my right foot slipped, I fell upon my back, and the violence of the blow deprived me totally of my senses for nearly half an hour; however, when I recovered, judge of my surprise at finding one of those large animals I have been just describing had turned me upon my face, and was just laying hold of the waistband of my breeches, which were then new and made of leather: he was certainly going to carry me feet foremost, nobody knows where, when I took a knife out of my side-pocket, made a chop at one of his hind-feet, and cut off three of his toes; he immediately let me drop and roared most horridly. I took up my carbine and fired at him as he ran off; he fell directly. The noise of the piece roused several thousands of these white bears, who were asleep upon the ice within half a mile of me; they came immediately to the spot. There was no time to be lost. A most fortunate thought arrived in my pericranium just at that instant. I took off the skin and head of the dead bear in half the time that some people would be in skinning a rabbit, and wrapped myself in it,

I NOW DETERMINED TO TRY THE EXPERIMENT

placing my own head directly under Bruin's; the whole herd came round me immediately, and my apprehensions threw me into a most piteous situation to be sure: however, my scheme turned out a most admirable one for my own safety. They all came smelling, and evidently took me for a brother Bruin; I wanted nothing but bulk to make an excellent counterfeit: however, I saw several cubs amongst them not much larger than myself. After they had all smelt me, and the body of their deceased companion, whose skin was now become my protector, we seemed very sociable, and I found I could mimic all their actions tolerably well; but at growling, roaring, and hugging they were quite my masters. I began now to think how I might turn the general confidence which I had created amongst these animals to my advantage.

I had heard an old army surgeon say a wound in the spine was instant death. I now determined to try the experiment, and had again recourse to my knife, with which I struck the largest in the back of the neck, near the shoulders, but under great apprehensions, not doubting but the creature would, if he survived

the stab, tear me to pieces. However, I was remarkably fortunate, for he fell dead at my feet without making the least noise. I was now resolved to demolish them every one in the same manner, which I accomplished without the least difficulty; for although they saw their companions fall, they had no suspicion of either the cause or the effect. When they all lay dead before me, I felt myself a second Samson, having slain my thousands.

To make short of the story, I went back to the ship, and borrowed three parts of the crew to assist me in skinning them, and carrying the hams on board, which we did in a few hours, and loaded the ship with them. As to the other parts of the animals, they were thrown into the sea, though I doubt not but the whole would eat as well as the legs, were they properly cured.

MUNCHAUSEN AND THE TURKISH CANNON

Baron de Tott, in his Memoirs, makes as great a parade of a single act as many travelers whose whole lives have been spent in seeing the different parts of the globe; for my part, if I had been blown from Europe to Asia from

the mouth of a cannon, I should have boasted less of it afterwards than he has done of only firing off a Turkish piece of ordnance. What he says of this wonderful gun, as near as my memory will serve me, is this:—"The Turks had placed below the castle, and near the city, on the banks of Simois, a celebrated river, an enormous piece of ordnance cast in brass, which would carry a marble ball of eleven hundred pounds weight. I was inclined," says Tott, "to fire it, but I was willing first to judge of its effect; the crowd about me trembled at this proposal, as they asserted it would overthrow not only the castle, but the city also; at length their fears in part subsided, and I was permitted to discharge it. It required not less than three hundred and thirty pounds weight of powder, and the ball weighed, as before mentioned, eleven hundredweight. When the engineer brought the priming, the crowds who were about me retreated back as fast as they could; nay, it was with the utmost difficulty I persuaded the Pasha, who came on purpose, there was no danger: even the engineer who was to discharge it by my direction was con-

SWAM TO THE OPPOSITE SHORE

siderably alarmed. I took my stand on some stone-work behind the cannon, gave the signal, and felt a shock like that of an earthquake! At the distance of three hundred fathom the ball burst into three pieces; the fragments crossed the strait, rebounded on the opposite mountain, and left the surface of the water all in a foam through the whole breadth of the channel."

This, gentlemen, is, as near as I can recollect, Baron Tott's account of the largest cannon in the known world. Now, when I was there not long since, the anecdote of Tott's firing this tremendous piece was mentioned as a proof of that gentleman's extraordinary courage.

I was determined not to be outdone by a Frenchman, therefore took this very piece upon my shoulder, and, after balancing it properly, jumped into the sea with it, and swam to the opposite shore, from whence I unfortunately attempted to throw it back into its former place. I say unfortunately, for it slipped a little in my hand just as I was about to discharge it, and in consequence of that it fell into the middle of the channel, where it now lies, without a pros-

pect of ever recovering it: and the Grand Seignior, as soon as he heard of the loss of his famous piece of ordnance, issued an order to cut off my head. That very night I made my escape on board a vessel bound to Venice, which was then weighing anchor to proceed on her voyage.

The last story, gentlemen, I am not fond of mentioning, as I miscarried in the attempt, and was very near losing my life into the bargain: however, as it contains no impeachment of my honor, I would not withhold it from you.

RESCUING PRISONERS FROM THE FRENCH

On my return from Gibraltar I traveled by way of France to England. Being a foreigner, this was not attended with any inconvenience to me. I found, in the harbor of Calais, a ship just arrived with a number of English sailors as prisoners of war. I immediately conceived an idea of giving these brave fellows their liberty, which I accomplished as follows:—After forming a pair of large wings, each of them forty yards long, and fourteen wide, and annexing them to myself, I mounted at break of day,

when every creature, even the watch upon deck, was fast asleep. As I hovered over the ship I fastened three grappling irons to the tops of the three masts, and fairly lifted her several yards out of the water, and then proceeded across to Dover, where I arrived in half an hour! Having no further occasion for these wings, I made them a present to the governor of Dover Castle, where they are now exhibited to the curious.

As to the prisoners, and the Frenchmen who guarded them, they did not awake till they had been near two hours on Dover Pier. The moment the English understood their situation they changed places with their guard, and took back what they had been plundered of, but no more, for they were too generous to retaliate and plunder them in return.

THE BARON'S BIRD DOG AT SEA

In a voyage which I made to the East Indies with Captain Hamilton, I took a favorite pointer with me; he was, to use a common phrase, worth his weight in gold, for he never deceived me. One day when we were, by the

best observations we could make, at least three hundred leagues from land, my dog pointed; I observed him for near an hour with astonishment, and mentioned the circumstance to the captain and every officer on board, asserting that we must be near land, for my dog smelt game. This occasioned a general laugh; but that did not alter in the least the good opinion I had of my dog. After much conversation pro and con, I boldly told the captain I placed more confidence in Tray's nose than I did in the eyes of every seaman on board, and therefore proposed laying the sum I had agreed to pay for my passage (viz., one hundred guineas) that we should find game within half an hour. The captain (a good, hearty fellow) laughed again, desired Mr. Crowford the surgeon, who was prepared, to feel my pulse; he did so, and reported me in perfect health. The following dialogue between them took place; I overheard it, though spoken low, and at some distance.

Captain.—His brain is turned; I cannot with honor accept his wager.

Surgeon.—I am of a different opinion; he is quite sane, and depends more upon the scent

of his dog than he will upon the judgment of all the officers on board; he will certainly lose, and he richly merits it.

Captain.—Such a wager cannot be fair on my side; however, I'll take him up, if I return his money afterwards.

During the above conversation Tray continued in the same situation, and confirmed me still more in my former opinion. I proposed the wager a second time, it was then accepted.

Done! and done! were scarcely said on both sides, when some sailors who were fishing in the long-boat, which was made fast to the stern of the ship, harpooned an exceeding large shark, which they brought on board and began to cut up for the purpose of barreling the oil, when, behold, they found no less than *six brace of live partridges* in this animal's stomach!

They had been so long in that situation, that one of the hens was sitting upon four eggs, and a fifth was hatching when the shark was opened!!! This young bird we brought up by placing it with a litter of kittens that came into the world a few minutes before! The old

WHEN THE SHARK WAS OPENED

cat was as fond of it as of any of her own four-legged progeny, and made herself very unhappy, when it flew out of her reach, till it returned again. As to the other partridges, there were four hens amongst them; one or more were, during the voyage, constantly sitting, and consequently we had plenty of game at the captain's table; and in gratitude to poor Tray (for being a means of winning one hundred guineas) I ordered him the bones daily, and sometimes a whole bird.

A LONGER VISIT TO THE MOON

I have already informed you of one trip I made to the moon, in search of my silver hatchet; I afterwards made another in a much pleasanter manner, and stayed in it long enough to take notice of several things, which I will endeavor to describe as accurately as my memory will permit.

I went on a voyage of discovery at the request of a distant relation, who had a strange notion that there were people to be found equal in magnitude to those described by Gulliver in the empire of Brobdingnag. For my part I

always treated that account as fabulous; however, to oblige him, for he had made me his heir, I undertook it, and sailed for the South Seas, where we arrived without meeting with anything remarkable, except some flying men and women who were playing at leap-frog, and dancing minuets in the air.

On the eighteenth day after we had passed the Island of Otaheite, mentioned by Captain Cook as the place from whence they brought Omai, a hurricane blew our ship at least one thousand leagues above the surface of the water, and kept it at that height till a fresh gale arising

filled the sails in every part, and onwards we traveled at a prodigious rate; thus we proceeded above the clouds for six weeks. At last we discovered a great land in the sky, like a shining island, round and bright, where, coming into a convenient harbor, we went on shore, and soon found it was inhabited. Below us we saw another earth, containing cities, trees, mountains, rivers, seas, &c., which we conjectured was this world which we had left. Here we saw huge figures riding upon vultures of a prodigious size, and each of them having three heads. To form some idea of the magnitude of these birds, I must inform you that each of their wings is as wide and six times the length of the main sheet of our vessel, which was about six hundred tons burthen. Thus, instead of riding upon horses, as we do in this world, the inhabitants of the moon (for we now found we were in Madam Luna) fly about on these birds.

The king, we found, was engaged in a war with the sun, and he offered me a commission, but I declined the honor his majesty intended me. In making war, their principal weapons

are radishes, which are used as darts: those who are wounded by them die immediately. Their shields are made of mushrooms, and their darts (when radishes are out of season) of the tops of asparagus.

Some of the natives of the dog-star are to be seen here; commerce tempts them to ramble; their faces are like large mastiffs', with their eyes near the lower end or tip of their noses: they have no eyelids, but cover their eyes with the end of their tongues when they go to sleep; they are generally twenty feet high. As to the natives of the moon, none of them are less in stature than thirty-six feet: they are not called the human species, but the cooking animals, for they all dress their food by fire, as we do.

Animals in the moon are all produced from trees of various sizes and foliage; that which produces the cooking animal, or human species, is much more beautiful than any of the others; it has large straight boughs and flesh-colored leaves, and the fruit it produces are nuts or pods, with hard shells at least two yards long; when they become ripe, which is known from their changing color, they are gathered with

great care, and laid by as long as they think proper: when they choose to animate the seed of these nuts, they throw them into a large caldron of boiling water, which opens the shells in a few hours, and out jumps the creature.

Nature forms their minds for different pursuits before they come into the world; from one shell comes forth a warrior, from another a philosopher, from a third a divine, from a fourth a lawyer, from a fifth a farmer, from a sixth a clown, &c., &c., and each of them immediately begins to perfect themselves, by practicing what they before knew only in theory.

When they grow old they do not die, but turn into air, and dissolve like smoke! They have but one finger upon each hand, with which they perform everything in as perfect a manner as we do who have four besides the thumb. Their heads are placed under their right arm, and when they are going to travel, or about any violent exercise, they generally leave them at home, for they can consult them at any distance; this is a very common practice; and when those of rank or quality among the Lunarians have an inclination to see what's

going forward among the common people, they stay at home, i.e., the body stays at home, and sends the head only, which is suffered to be present incog., and return at pleasure with an account of what has passed.

Their eyes they can take in and out of their places when they please, and can see as well with them in their hand as in their head! and if by any accident they lose or damage one, they can borrow or purchase another, and see as clearly with it as their own. Dealers in eyes are on that account very numerous in most parts of the moon, and in this article alone all the inhabitants are whimsical: sometimes green and sometimes yellow eyes are the fashion.

The stones of their grapes are exactly like hail; and I am perfectly satisfied that when a storm or high wind in the moon shakes their vines, and breaks the grapes from the stalks, the stones fall down and form our hail showers. I would advise those who are of my opinion to save a quantity of these stones when it hails next, and make Lunarian wine. It is common beverage at St. Luke's.

I know these things appear strange; but if

the shadow of a doubt can remain on any person's mind, I say, let him take a voyage there himself, and then he will know I am a traveler of veracity.

SLEEPING IN A CANNON

My first visit to England was about the beginning of the present king's reign. I had occasion to go down to Wapping, to see some goods shipped, which I was sending to some friends at Hamburg; after that business was over, I took the Tower Wharf in my way back. Here I found the sun very powerful, and I was so much fatigued that I stepped into one of the cannon to compose me, where I fell fast asleep. This was about noon: it was the fourth of June; exactly at one o'clock these cannon were all discharged in memory of the day. They had been all charged that morning, and having no suspicion of my situation, I was shot over the houses on the opposite side of the river, into a farmer's yard, between Bermondsey and Deptford, where I fell upon a large hay-stack, without waking, and continued there in a sound sleep till hay became so extravagantly dear

(which was about three months after), that the farmer found it his interest to send his whole stock to market: the stack I was reposing upon was the largest in the yard, containing above five hundred load; they began to cut

that first. I woke with the voices of the people who had ascended the ladders to begin at the top, and got up, totally ignorant of my situation: in attempting to run away I fell upon the farmer to whom the hay belonged, and broke his neck, yet received no injury myself. I afterwards found, to my great consolation, that this fellow was a most detestable character, always keeping the produce of his grounds for extravagant markets.

A VISIT TO VULCAN AND VENUS

Mr. Drybones' Travels to Sicily, which I had read with great pleasure, induced me to pay a visit to Mount Etna; my voyage to this place was not attended with any circumstances worth relating. One morning early, three or four days after my arrival, I set out from a cottage where I had slept, within six miles of the foot of the mountain, determined to explore the internal parts, if I perished in the attempt. After three hours' hard labor I found myself at the top; it was then, and had been for upwards of three weeks, raging: its appearance in this state has been so frequently noticed by different travelers, that I will not tire you with descriptions of objects you are already acquainted with. I walked round the edge of the crater, which appeared to be fifty times at least as capacious as the Devil's Punch-Bowl near Petersfield, on the Portsmouth Road, but not so broad at the bottom, as in that part it resembles the contracted part of a funnel more than a punch-bowl. At last, having made up my mind, in I sprang feet foremost; I soon found myself in a warm berth,

and my body bruised and burnt in various parts by the red-hot cinders, which, by their violent ascent, opposed my descent: however, my weight soon brought me to the bottom, where I found myself in the midst of noise and clamor,

mixed with the most horrid imprecations; after recovering my senses, and feeling a reduction of my pain, I began to look about me. Guess, gentlemen, my astonishment, when I found myself in the company of Vulcan and his Cyclops, who had been quarreling, for the three weeks before mentioned, about the observation of good order and due subordination, and which had

occasioned such alarms for that space of time in the world above. However, my arrival restored peace to the whole society, and Vulcan himself did me the honor of applying plasters to my wounds, which healed them immediately; he also placed refreshments before me, particularly nectar, and other rich wines, such as the gods and goddesses only aspire to. After this repast was over Vulcan ordered Venus to show me every indulgence which my situation required. To describe the apartment, and the couch on which I reposed, is totally impossible, therefore I will not attempt it; let it suffice to say, it exceeds the power of language to do it justice, or speak of that kind-hearted goddess in any terms equal to her merit.

Vulcan gave me a very concise account of Mount Etna: he said it was nothing more than an accumulation of ashes thrown from his forge; that he was frequently obliged to chastise his people, at whom, in his passion, he made it a practice to throw red-hot coals at home, which they often parried with great dexterity, and then threw them up into the world to place them out of his reach, for they never

attempted to assault him in return by throwing them back again. "Our quarrels," added he, "last sometimes three or four months, and these appearances of coals or cinders in the world are what I find you mortals call eruptions." Mount Vesuvius, he assured me, was another of his shops, to which he had a passage three hundred and fifty leagues under the bed of the sea, where similar quarrels produced similar eruptions.

I should have continued here, but some busy tattlers, who delight in mischief, whispered a tale in Vulcan's ear, which roused in him a fit of jealousy not to be appeased. Without the least previous notice he took me one morning under his arm, and carried me to an apartment I had never before seen, in which there was, to all appearance, *a well* with a wide mouth: over this he held me at arm's length, and saying, "*Ungrateful mortal, return to the world from whence you came*," without giving me the least opportunity of reply, dropped me in the center. I found myself descending with an increasing rapidity, till the horror of my mind deprived me of all reflection. I suppose I fell

into a trance, from which I was suddenly roused by plunging into a large body of water illuminated by the rays of the sun!!

THE BARON IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN

I could, from my infancy, swim well, and play tricks in the water. I now found myself in paradise, considering the horrors of mind I had just been released from. After looking about me some time, I could discover nothing but an expanse of sea, extending beyond the eye in every direction; I also found it very cold, a different climate from Master Vulcan's shop. At last I observed at some distance a body of amazing magnitude, like a huge rock, approaching me; I soon discovered it to be a piece of floating ice; I swam round it till I found a place where I could ascend to the top, which I did, but not without some difficulty. Still I was out of sight of land, and despair returned with double force; however, before night came on I saw a sail, which we approached very fast; when it was within a very small distance I hailed them in German; they answered in Dutch. I then flung myself into the sea, and

they threw out a rope, by which I was taken on board. I now inquired where we were, and was informed, in the great Southern Ocean; this opened a discovery which removed all my doubts and difficulties. It was now evident that I had passed from Mount Etna through the center of the earth to the South Seas: this, gentlemen, was a much shorter cut than going round the world, and which no man has accomplished, or ever attempted, but myself: however, the next time I perform it I will be much more particular in my observations.

I took some refreshment, and went to rest. The Dutch are a very rude sort of people; I related the Etna passage to the officers, exactly as I have done to you, and some of them, particularly the Captain, seemed by his grimace and half-sentence to doubt my veracity; however, as he had kindly taken me on board his vessel, and was then in the very act of administering to my necessities, I pocketed the affront.

I now in my turn began to inquire where they were bound? To which they answered, they were in search of new discoveries; "*and if*," said they, "*your story is true, a new passage is*

really discovered, and we shall not return disappointed." We were now exactly in Captain Cook's first track, and arrived the next morning in Botany Bay. This place I would by no means recommend to the English government as a receptacle for felons, or place of punishment; it should rather be the reward of merit, nature having most bountifully bestowed her best gifts upon it.

THE CHEESE ISLAND

We stayed here but three days; the fourth after our departure a most dreadful storm arose, which in a few hours destroyed all our sails, splintered our bowsprit, and brought down our topmast; it fell directly upon the box that inclosed our compass, which, with the compass, was broken to pieces. Every one who has been at sea knows the consequences of such a misfortune: we now were at a loss where to steer. At length the storm abated, which was followed by a steady, brisk gale, that carried us at least forty knots an hour for six months! when we began to observe an amazing change in everything about us: our spirits became light, our

noses were regaled with the most aromatic effluvia imaginable: the sea had also changed its complexion, and from green became white!! Soon after these wonderful alterations we saw land, and not at any great distance an inlet, which we sailed up near sixty leagues, and found it wide and deep, flowing with milk of the most delicious taste. Here we landed, and soon found it was an island consisting of one large cheese: we discovered this by one of the company fainting away as soon as we landed: this man always had an aversion to cheese; when he recovered, he desired the cheese to be taken from under his feet: upon examination we found him perfectly right, for the whole island, as before observed, was nothing but a cheese of immense magnitude! Upon this the inhabitants, who are amazingly numerous, principally sustain themselves, and it grows every night in proportion as it is consumed in the day. Here seemed to be plenty of vines, with bunches of large grapes, which, upon being pressed, yielded nothing but milk. We saw the inhabitants running races upon the surface of the milk: they were upright, comely figures, nine feet high, have three

legs, and but one arm; upon the whole, their form was graceful, and when they quarrel, they exercise a straight horn, which grows in adults from the center of their foreheads, with great adroitness; they did not sink at all, but ran and walked upon the surface of the milk, as we do upon a bowling-green.

Upon this island of cheese grows great plenty of corn, the ears of which produce loaves of bread, ready made, of a round form like mushrooms. We discovered, in our rambles over this cheese, seventeen other rivers of milk, and ten of wine.

After thirty-eight days' journey we arrived on the opposite side to that on which we landed: here we found some blue mold, as cheese-eaters call it, from whence spring all kinds of rich fruit; instead of breeding mites it produced peaches, nectarines, apricots, and a thousand delicious fruits which we are not acquainted with. In these trees, which are of an amazing size, were plenty of birds' nests; amongst others was a kingfisher's of prodigious magnitude; it was at least twice the circumference of the dome of St. Paul's Church in London. Upon

inspection, this nest was made of huge trees curiously joined together; there were, let me see (*for I make it a rule always to speak within compass*), there were upwards of five hundred eggs in this nest, and each of them was as large as four common hogsheads, or eight barrels, and we could not only see, but hear the young ones chirping within. Having, with great fatigue, cut open one of these eggs, we let out a young one unfeathered, considerably larger than twenty full-grown vultures. Just as we had given this youngster his liberty the old kingfisher lighted, and seizing our captain, who had been active in breaking the egg, in one of her claws, flew with him above a mile high, and then let him drop into the sea, but not till she had beaten all his teeth out of his mouth with her wings.

Dutchmen generally swim well: he soon joined us, and we retreated to our ship. On our return we took a different route, and observed many strange objects. We shot two wild oxen, each with one horn, also like the inhabitants, except that it sprouted from between the eyes of these animals; we were afterwards concerned at having destroyed them, as we found,

by inquiry, they tamed these creatures, and used them as we do horses, to ride upon and draw their carriages; their flesh, we were informed, is excellent, but useless where people live upon cheese and milk. When we had reached within two days' journey of the ship we observed three men hanging to a tall tree by their heels; upon inquiring the cause of their punishment, I found they had all been travelers, and upon their return home had deceived their friends by describing places they never saw, and relating things that never happened: this gave me no concern, *as I have ever confined myself to facts.*

As soon as we arrived at the ship we unmoored, and set sail from this extraordinary country, when, to our astonishment, all the trees upon shore, of which there were a great number very tall and large, paid their respects to us twice, bowing to exact time, and immediately recovered their former posture, which was quite erect.

By what we could learn of this CHEESE, it was considerably larger than the continent of all Europe!

A SHIP SWALLOWED WHOLE

After sailing three months we knew not where, being still without compass, we arrived in a sea which appeared to be almost black: upon tasting it we found it most excellent wine, and had great difficulty to keep the sailors from

getting drunk with it: however, in a few hours we found ourselves surrounded by whales and other animals of an immense magnitude, one of which appeared to be too large for the eye to form a judgment of: we did not see him till we were close to him. This monster drew our ship, with all her masts standing, and sails bent, by suction into his mouth, between his teeth, which were much larger and taller than the mast of a first-rate man-of-war. After we had been in his mouth some time he opened

it pretty wide, took in an immense quantity of water, and floated our vessel, which was at least 500 tons burthen, into his stomach; here we lay as quiet as at anchor in a dead calm. The air, to be sure, was rather warm, and very offensive. We found anchors, cables, boats, and barges in abundance, and a considerable number of ships, some laden and some not, which this creature had swallowed. Everything was transacted by torch-light; no sun, no moon, no planet, to make observations from. We were all generally afloat and aground twice a-day; whenever he drank, it became high water with us; upon a moderate computation, he took in more water at a single draft than is generally to be found in the Lake of Geneva, though that is above thirty miles in circumference. On the second day of our confinement in these regions of darkness, I ventured at low water, as we called it when the ship was aground, to ramble with the Captain, and a few of the other officers, with lights in our hands; we met with people of all nations, to the amount of upwards of ten thousand; they were going to hold a council how to recover their liberty; some of

them having lived in this animal's stomach several years; there were families of children who had been born here and had never seen the world. Just as the chairman was going to inform us of the business upon which we were assembled, this plaguy fish, becoming thirsty, drank in his usual manner; the water poured in with such impetuosity, that we were all obliged to retreat to our respective ships immediately, or run the risk of being drowned; some were obliged to swim for it, and with difficulty saved their lives. In a few hours after we were more fortunate, we met again, I was chosen chairman, and the first thing I did was to propose splicing two main-masts together, and the next time he opened his mouth to be ready to wedge them in, so as to prevent his shutting it. It was unanimously approved. One hundred stout men were chosen upon this service. We had scarcely got our masts properly prepared when an opportunity offered; the monster opened his mouth, immediately the top of the mast was placed against the roof, and the other end pierced his tongue, which effectually prevented him from shutting his

mouth. As soon as everything in his stomach was afloat, we manned a few boats, who rowed themselves and us into the world. The daylight, after, as near as we could judge, three months' confinement in total darkness, cheered our spirits surprisingly. When we had all taken our leave of this capacious animal, we mustered just a fleet of ninety-five ships, of all nations, who had been in this confined situation.

We left the two masts in his mouth, to prevent others being confined in the same horrid gulf.

A TEST OF MUSCLE AGAINST A BEAR

Our first object was to learn what part of the world we were in; this we were for some time at a loss to ascertain: at last I found, from former observations, that we were in the Caspian Sea! which washes part of the country of the Kalmuck Tartars. How we came here it was impossible to conceive, as this sea has no communication with any other. One of the inhabitants of the Cheese Island, whom I had brought with me, accounted for it thus:—that the monster in whose stomach we had been so

long confined had carried us here through some subterraneous passage; however, we pushed to shore and I was the first who landed. Just as I put my foot upon the ground a large bear leaped upon me with his fore-paws; I caught one in each hand, and squeezed him till he cried out most lustily; however, in this position I held him till I starved him to death. You may laugh, gentlemen, but this was soon accomplished, as I prevented him licking his paws.

DEATH CANNOT SPOIL A GOOD BIRD DOG

From hence I traveled up to St. Petersburg a second time: here an old friend gave me a most excellent pointer. I had the misfortune to have him shot soon after by a blundering sportsman, who fired at him instead of a covey of partridges which he had just set. Of this creature's skin I have had this waistcoat made, which always leads me involuntarily to game if I walk in the fields in the proper season, and when I come within shot, *one of the buttons constantly flies off, and lodges upon the spot where the sport is*; and as the birds rise, being always primed and cocked, I never miss them.

Here are now but three buttons left. I shall have a new set sewed on against the shooting season commences.

THREE BIRDS IN A ROW

When a covey of partridges is disturbed in this manner, by the button falling amongst them, they always rise from the ground in a direct line before each other. I one day, by forgetting to take my ramrod out of my gun, shot it straight through a leash, as regularly as if the cook had spitted them. I had forgot to put in any shot, and the rod had been made so hot with the powder, that the birds were completely roasted by the time I reached home.

SUPPLEMENT

EXTRAORDINARY FLIGHT ON THE BACK OF AN EAGLE

ABOUT the beginning of his present Majesty's reign I had some business with a distant relation who then lived on the Isle of Thanet; it was a family dispute, and not likely to be finished soon. I made it a practice during my residence there, the weather being fine, to walk out every morning. After a few of these excursions I observed an object upon a great eminence about three miles distant: I extended my walk to it, and found the ruins of an ancient temple: I approached it with admiration and astonishment; the traces of grandeur and magnificence which yet remained were evident proofs of its former splendor: here I could not help lamenting the ravages and devastations of time, of which that once noble structure exhibited such a melancholy proof. I walked

round it several times, meditating on the fleeting and transitory nature of all terrestrial things; on the eastern end were the remains of a lofty tower, near forty feet high, overgrown with ivy, the top apparently flat; I surveyed it on every side very minutely, thinking that if I could gain its summit I should enjoy the most delightful prospect of the circumjacent country. Animated with this hope, I resolved, if possible, to gain the summit, which I at length effected by means of the ivy, though not without great difficulty and danger; the top I found covered with this evergreen, except a large chasm in the middle. After I had surveyed with pleasing wonder the beauties of art and nature that conspired to enrich the scene, curiosity prompted me to sound the opening in the middle, in order to ascertain its depth, as I entertained a suspicion that it might probably communicate with some unexplored subterranean cavern in the hill; but having no line I was at a loss how to proceed. After revolving the matter in my thoughts for some time, I resolved to drop a stone down and listen to the echo: having found one that

answered my purpose, I placed myself over the hole, with one foot on each side, and stooping down to listen, I dropped the stone, which I had no sooner done than I heard a rustling below, and suddenly a monstrous eagle put up its head right opposite my face, and rising up with irresistible force, carried me away seated on its shoulders: I instantly grasped it round the neck, which was large enough to fill my arms, and its wings, when extended, were ten yards from one extremity to the other. As it rose with a regular ascent, my seat was perfectly easy, and I enjoyed the prospect below with inexpressible pleasure. It hovered over Margate for some time, was seen by several people, and many shots were fired at it; one ball hit the heel of my shoe, but did me no injury. It then directed its course to Dover cliff, where it alighted, and I thought of dismounting, but was prevented by a sudden discharge of musketry from a party of marines that were exercising on the beach; the balls flew about my head, and rattled on the feathers of the eagle like hail-stones, yet I could not perceive it had received any injury. It instantly reascended and

flew over the sea towards Calais, but so very high that the Channel seemed to be no broader than the Thames at London Bridge. In a quarter of an hour I found myself over a thick wood in France, where the eagle descended very rapidly, which caused me to slip down to the back part of its head; but alighting on a large tree, and raising its head, I recovered my seat as before, but saw no possibility of disengaging myself without the danger of being killed by the fall; so I determined to sit fast, thinking it would carry me to the Alps, or some other high mountain, where I could dismount without any danger. After resting a few minutes it took wing, flew several times round the wood, and screamed loud enough to be heard across the English Channel. In a few minutes one of the same species arose out of the wood, and flew directly towards us; it surveyed me with evident marks of displeasure, and came very near me. After flying several times round, they both directed their course to the south-west. I soon observed that the one I rode upon could not keep pace with the other, but inclined towards the earth, on account of my

weight; its companion perceiving this, turned round and placed itself in such a position that the other could rest its head on its rump; in this manner they proceeded till noon, when I saw the rock of Gibraltar very distinctly. The day being clear, notwithstanding my degree of elevation, the earth's surface appeared just like a map, where land, sea, lakes, rivers, mountains, and the like were perfectly distinguishable; and having some knowledge of geography, I was at no loss to determine what part of the globe I was in.

Whilst I was contemplating this wonderful prospect a dreadful howling suddenly began all around me, and in a moment I was invested by thousands of small black, deformed, frightful-looking creatures, who pressed me on all sides in such a manner that I could neither move hand or foot: but I had not been in their possession more than ten minutes when I heard the most delightful music that can possibly be imagined, which was suddenly changed into a noise the most awful and tremendous, to which the report of cannon, or the loudest claps of thunder could bear no more proportion than

the gentle zephyrs of the evening to the most dreadful hurricane; but the shortness of its duration prevented all those fatal effects which a prolongation of it would certainly have been attended with.

The music commenced, and I saw a great number of the most beautiful little creatures seize the other party, and throw them with great violence into something like a snuff-box, which they shut down, and one threw it away with incredible velocity; then turning to me, he said they whom he had secured were a party of devils, who had wandered from their proper habitation; and that the vehicle in which they were inclosed would fly with unabating rapidity for ten thousand years, when it would burst of its own accord, and the devils would recover their liberty and faculties, as at the present moment. He had no sooner finished this relation than the music ceased, and they all disappeared, leaving me in a state of mind bordering on the confines of despair.

When I had recomposed myself a little, and looking before me with inexpressible pleasure, I observed that the eagles were preparing to

light on the peak of Teneriffe: they descended on the top of a rock, but seeing no possible means of escape if I dismounted determined me to remain where I was. The eagles sat down seemingly fatigued, when the heat of the sun soon caused them both to fall asleep, nor did I long resist its fascinating power. In the cool of the evening, when the sun had retired below the horizon, I was roused from sleep by the eagle moving under me; and having stretched myself along its back, I sat up, and reassumed my traveling position, when they both took wing, and having placed themselves as before, directed their course to South America. The moon shining bright during the whole night, I had a fine view of all the islands in those seas.

About the break of day we reached the great continent of America, that part called Terra Firma, and descended on the top of a very high mountain. At this time the moon, far distant in the west, and obscured by dark clouds, but just afforded light sufficient for me to discover a kind of shrubbery all around, bearing fruit something like cabbages, which the eagles be-

gan to feed on very eagerly. I endeavored to discover my situation, but fogs and passing clouds involved me in the thickest darkness, and what rendered the scene still more shocking was the tremendous howling of wild beasts, some of which appeared to be very near: however, I determined to keep my seat, imagining that the eagle would carry me away if any of them should make a hostile attempt. When daylight began to appear I thought of examining the fruit which I had seen the eagles eat, and as some was hanging which I could easily come at, I took out my knife and cut a slice; but how great was my surprise to see that it had all the appearance of roast beef regularly mixed, both fat and lean! I tasted it, and found it well flavored and delicious, then cut several large slices and put in my pocket, where I found a crust of bread which I had brought from Margate; took it out, and found three musket-balls that had been lodged in it on Dover cliff. I extracted them, and cutting a few slices more, made a hearty meal of bread and cold beef fruit. I then cut down two of the largest that grew near me, and tying them

TWO OF THE LARGEST THAT GREW NEAR ME

together with one of my garters, hung them over the eagle's neck for another occasion, filling my pockets at the same time. While I was settling these affairs I observed a large fruit like an inflated bladder, which I wished to try an experiment upon: and striking my knife into one of them, a fine pure liquor like Hollands gin rushed out, which the eagles observing, eagerly drank up from the ground. I cut down the bladder as fast as I could, and saved about half a pint in the bottom of it, which I tasted, and could not distinguish it from the best mountain wine. I drank it all, and found myself greatly refreshed. By this time the eagles began to stagger against the shrubs. I endeavored to keep my seat, but was soon thrown to some distance among the bushes. In attempting to rise I put my hand upon a large hedgehog, which happened to lie among the grass upon its back: it instantly closed round my hand, so that I found it impossible to shake it off. I struck it several times against the ground without effect; but while I was thus employed I heard a rustling among the shrubbery, and looking up, I saw a huge animal within three yards

of me; I could make no defense, but held out both my hands, when it rushed upon me, and seized that on which the hedgehog was fixed. My hand being soon relieved, I ran to some distance, where I saw the creature suddenly drop down and expire with the hedgehog in its throat. When the danger was past I went to view the eagles, and found them lying on the grass fast asleep, being intoxicated with the liquor they had drank. Indeed, I found myself considerably elevated by it, and seeing everything quiet, I began to search for some more, which I soon found; and having cut down two large bladders, about a gallon each, I tied them together, and hung them over the neck of the other eagle, and the two smaller ones I tied with a cord round my own waist. Having secured a good stock of provisions, and perceiving the eagles begin to recover, I again took my seat. In half an hour they arose majestically from the place, without taking the least notice of their incumbrance. Each reassumed its former station; and directing their course to the northward, they crossed the Gulf of Mexico, entered North America, and steered directly

for the Polar regions, which gave me the finest opportunity of viewing this vast continent that can possibly be imagined.

Before we entered the frigid zone the cold began to affect me; but piercing one of my bladders, I took a draft, and found it could make no impression on me afterwards. Passing over Hudson's Bay, I saw several of the Company's ships lying at anchor, and many tribes of Indians marching with their furs to market.

By this time I was so reconciled to my seat, and become such an expert rider, that I could sit up and look around me; but in general I lay along the eagle's neck, grasping it in my arms, with my hands immersed in its feathers, in order to keep them warm.

In these cold climates I observed that the eagles flew with greater rapidity, in order, I suppose, to keep their blood in circulation. In passing Baffin's Bay I saw several large Greenlandmen to the eastward, and many surprising mountains of ice in those seas.

While I was surveying these wonders of nature it occurred to me that this was a good

opportunity to discover the north-west passage, if any such thing existed, and not only obtain the reward offered by government, but the honor of a discovery pregnant with so many advantages to every European nation. But while my thoughts were absorbed in this pleasing reverie I was alarmed by the first eagle striking its head against a solid transparent substance, and in a moment that which I rode experienced the same fate, and both fell down seemingly dead.

Here our lives must inevitably have terminated, had not a sense of danger, and the singularity of my situation, inspired me with a degree of skill and dexterity which enabled us to fall near two miles perpendicular with as little inconveniency as if we had been let down with a rope; for no sooner did I perceive the eagles strike against a frozen cloud, which is very common near the poles, than (they being close together) I laid myself along the back of the foremost, and took hold of its wings to keep them extended, at the same time stretching out my legs behind to support the wings of the other. This had the desired effect, and we de-

scended very safe on a mountain of ice, which I supposed to be about three miles above the level of the sea.

I dismounted, unloaded the eagles, opened one of the bladders, and administered some of the liquor to each of them, without once considering that the horrors of destruction seemed to have conspired against me. The roaring of waves, crashing of ice, and the howling of bears, conspired to form a scene the most awful and tremendous: but notwithstanding this, my concern for the recovery of the eagles was so great, that I was insensible of the danger to which I was exposed. Having rendered them every assistance in my power, I stood over them in painful anxiety, fully sensible that it was only by means of them that I could possibly be delivered from these abodes of despair.

But suddenly a monstrous bear began to roar behind me, with a voice like thunder. I turned round, and seeing the creature just ready to devour me, having a bladder of liquor in my hands, through fear I squeezed it so hard, that it burst, and the liquor flying in the eyes of the animal, totally deprived it of sight. It instantly

turned from me, ran away in a state of distraction, and soon fell over a precipice of ice into the sea, where I saw it no more.

The danger being over, I again turned my attention to the eagles, whom I found in a fair way of recovery, and suspecting that they were faint for want of victuals, I took one of the beef fruit, cut it into small slices, and presented them with it, which they devoured with avidity.

Having given them plenty to eat and drink, and disposed of the remainder of my provision, I took possession of my seat as before. After composing myself, and adjusting everything in the best manner, I began to eat and drink very heartily; and through the effects of the mountain, as I called it, was very cheerful, and began to sing a few verses of a song which I had learned when I was a boy: but the noise soon alarmed the eagles, who had been asleep, through the quantity of liquor which they had drank, and they arose seemingly much terrified. Happily for me, however, when I was feeding them I had accidentally turned their heads towards the south-east, which course they pursued with a rapid motion. In a few hours

I saw the Western Isles, and soon after had the inexpressible pleasure of seeing Old England. I took no notice of the seas or islands over which I passed.

The eagles descended gradually as they drew near the shore, intending, as I supposed, to alight on one of the Welsh mountains; but when they came to the distance of about sixty yards two guns were fired at them, loaded with balls, one of which took place in a bladder of liquor that hung to my waist; the other entered the breast of the foremost eagle, who fell to the ground, while that which I rode, having received no injury, flew away with amazing swiftness.

This circumstance alarmed me exceedingly, and I began to think it was impossible for me to escape with my life; but recovering a little, I once more looked down upon the earth, when, to my inexpressible joy, I saw Margate at a little distance, and the eagle descending on the old tower whence it had carried me on the morning of the day before. It no sooner came down than I threw myself off, happy to find that I was once more restored to the world. The eagle flew away in a few minutes, and I

sat down to compose my fluttering spirits, which I did in a few hours.

I soon paid a visit to my friends, and related these adventures. Amazement stood in every countenance; their congratulations on my returning in safety were repeated with an unaffected degree of pleasure, and we passed the evening as we are doing now, every person present paying the highest compliments to my COURAGE and VERACITY.

THE SECOND VOLUME

THE BARON PLANS A TRIP TO CENTRAL AFRICA

HAVING passed some time in England since the completion of my former memoirs, I at length began to revolve in my mind what a prodigious field of discovery must be in the interior part of Africa. I could not sleep with the thoughts of it; I therefore determined to gain every proper assistance from Government to penetrate the celebrated source of the Nile, and assume the viceroyship of the interior kingdoms of Africa.

THE CHARIOT OF QUEEN MAB

The third hour after midnight they seated me in the chariot of Queen Mab. It was of a prodigious dimension, large enough to contain more stowage than the tun of Heidelberg, and globular like a hazel-nut: in fact, it seemed to

be really a hazel-nut grown to a most extravagant dimension, and that a great worm of proportionable enormity had bored a hole in the shell. Through this same entrance I was ushered. It was as large as a coach-door, and I took my seat in the center, a kind of chair self-balanced without touching anything, like the fancied tomb of Mahomet. The whole interior surface of the nutshell appeared a luminous representation of all the stars of heaven, the fixed stars, the planets, and a comet. The stars were as large as those worn by our first nobility, and the comet, excessively brilliant, seemed as if you had assembled all the eyes of the beautiful girls in the kingdom, and combined them, like a peacock's plumage, into the form of a comet—that is, a globe, and a bearded tail to it, diminishing gradually to a point. This beautiful constellation seemed very sportive and delightful. It was much in the form of a tadpole! and, without ceasing, went, full of playful giddiness, up and down, all over the heaven on the concave surface of the nutshell. One time it would be at that part of the heavens under my feet, and in the next

minute would be over my head. It was never at rest, but for ever going east, west, north, or south, and paid no more respect to the different worlds than if they were so many lanterns without reflectors. Some of them he would dash against and push out of their places; others he would burn up and consume to ashes: and others again he would split into fritters, and their fragments would instantly take a globular form, like spilled quicksilver, and become satellites to whatever other worlds they should happen to meet with in their career. In short, the whole seemed an epitome of the creation, past, present, and future; and all that passes among the stars during one thousand years was here generally performed in as many seconds.

I surveyed all the beauties of the chariot with wonder and delight. "Certainly," cried I, "this is heaven in miniature!" In short, I took the reins in my hand. But before I proceed on my adventures, I shall mention the rest of my attendant furniture. The chariot was drawn by a team of nine bulls harnessed to it, three after three. In the first rank was a most tremendous bull named John Mowmowsky; the rest were

called Jacks in general, but not dignified by any particular denomination. The creatures could perform astonishing journeys, and slide upon the water, or upon the ocean, with great velocity. The harnesses were fastened with golden buckles, and decked with studs in a superb style, and the creatures were ridden by nine postilions, crickets of a great size, as large as monkeys, who sat squat upon the heads of the bulls, and were continually chirping at a most unearthly rate, loud in proportion to their bodies.

The wheels of the chariot consisted of upwards of ten thousand springs, formed so as to give the greater impetuosity to the vehicle, and were more complex than a dozen clocks like that of Strasburg. The external of the chariot was adorned with banners, and a superb festoon of laurel that formerly shaded me on horseback. And now, having given you a very concise description of my machine for traveling into Africa, which you must allow to be far superior to the apparatus of Monsieur Vaillant, I shall proceed to relate the exploits of my voyage.

FROM ENGLAND TO THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

Taking the reins in my hand, while the music gave a general salute, I cracked my whip, and made forward, in mad career, to the land of Egypt. The land of this country, at least that part of it near the sea, is very low, so that I came upon it ere I was aware, and the pillar of Pompey got entangled in the various wheels of the machine, and damaged the whole considerably.

As the artists at present in that country are nothing wonderful, though the ancient Egyptians, 'tis said, were most astonishing fellows, I could not procure any new coach-springs, or have a possibility of setting my machine to rights in the kingdom of Egypt; and as I could not presume to attempt another journey overland, and the great mountains of marble beyond the source of the Nile, I thought it most eligible to make the best way I could, by sea, to the Cape of Good Hope, where I supposed I should get some Dutch smiths and carpenters, or perhaps some English artists; and my

vehicle being properly repaired, it was my intention thence to proceed, overland, through the heart of Africa. The surface of the water, I well knew, afforded less resistance to the wheels of the machine—it passed along the waves like the chariot of Neptune; and in short, having gotten upon the Red Sea, we scudded away to admiration through the pass of Babelmandeb.

I drove on with the most amazing rapidity, and thinking to halt on shore at the Cape, I unfortunately drove too close, and shattered the right side wheels of my vehicle against the rock, now called the Table Mountain. The machine went against it with such impetuosity as completely shivered the rock in a horizontal direction; so that the summit of the mountain, in the form of a semisphere, was knocked into the sea, and the steep mountain becoming thereby flattened at the top, has since received the name of the Table Mountain, from its similarity to that piece of furniture.

Just as this part of the mountain was knocked off, the ghost of the Cape, that tremendous sprite which cuts such a figure in the Lusiad,

was discovered sitting squat in an excavation formed for him in the center of the mountain. He seemed just like a young bee in his little cell before he comes forth, or like a bean in a bean-pod; and when the upper part of the mountain was split across and knocked off, the superior half of his person was discovered. He appeared of a bottle-blue color, and started, dazzled with the unexpected glare of the light: hearing the dreadful rattle of the wheels, and the loud chirping of the crickets, he was thunder-struck, and instantly giving a shriek, sunk down ten thousand fathoms into the earth, while the mountain, vomiting out some smoke, silently closed up, and left not a trace behind!

AN ICEBERG IN THE TROPICS

As it was not possible to do anything more I took my passage in a homeward-bound Indiaman, to return to London, and lay the matter before the Privy Council.

We met with nothing particular until we arrived upon the coast of Guinea, where, to our utter astonishment, we perceived a great hill, seemingly of glass, advancing against us in the

open sea; the rays of the sun were reflected upon it with such splendor, that it was extremely difficult to gaze at the phenomenon. I immediately knew it to be an island of ice, and though in so very warm a latitude, determined to make all possible sail from such horrible danger. We did so, but all in vain, for about eleven o'clock at night, blowing a very hard gale, and exceedingly dark, we struck upon the island. Nothing could equal the distraction, the shrieks, and despair of the whole crew, until I, knowing there was not a moment to be lost, cheered up their spirits, and bade them not despond, but do as I should request them. In a few minutes the vessel was half full of water, and the enormous castle of ice that seemed to hem us in on every side, in some places falling in hideous fragments upon the deck, killed the one half of the crew; upon which, getting upon the summit of the mast, I contrived to make it fast to a great promontory of the ice, and calling to the remainder of the crew to follow me, we all escaped from the wreck, and got upon the summit of the island.

The rising sun soon gave us a dreadful prospect of our situation, and the loss, or rather icefication, of the vessel; for being closed in on every side with castles of ice during the night, she was absolutely frozen over and buried in such a manner that we could behold her under our feet, even in the central solidity of the island. Having debated what was best to be done, we immediately cut down through the ice, and got up some of the cables of the vessel, and the boats, which, making fast to the island, we towed it with all our might, determined to bring home island and all, or perish in the attempt. On the summit of the island we placed what oakum and dregs of every kind of matter we could get from the vessel, which, in the space of a very few hours, on account of the liquefying of the ice, and the warmth of the sun, were transformed into a very fine manure; and as I had some seeds of exotic vegetables in my pocket, we shortly had a sufficiency of fruits and roots growing upon the island to supply the whole crew, especially the bread-fruit tree, a few plants of which had been in the vessel; and another tree, which

bore plum-puddings so very hot, and with such exquisite proportion of sugar, fruit, &c., that we all acknowledged it was not possible to taste anything of the kind more delicious in England: in short, though the scurvy had made such dreadful progress among the crew before our striking upon the ice, the supply of vegetables, and especially the bread-fruit and pudding-fruit, put an almost immediate stop to the distemper.

THE SANDS OF CENTRAL AFRICA

We at length arrived on the confines of an immeasurable desert—an immense plain, extending on every side of us like an ocean. Not a tree, nor a shrub, nor a blade of grass was to be seen, but all appeared an extreme fine sand, mixed with gold-dust and little sparkling pearls.

The gold-dust and pearls appeared to us of little value, because we could have no expectation of returning to England for a considerable time. We observed, at a great distance, something like a smoke arising just over the verge of the horizon, and looking with our telescopes

we perceived it to be a whirlwind tearing up the sand and tossing it about in the heavens with frightful impetuosity. I immediately ordered my company to erect a mound around us of a great size, which we did with astonishing labor and perseverance, and then roofed it over with certain planks and timber, which we had with us for the purpose. Our labor was scarcely finished when the sand came rolling in like the waves of the sea; 'twas a storm and river of sand united. It continued to advance in the same direction, without intermission, for three days, and completely covered over the mound we had erected, and buried us all within. The intense heat of the place was intolerable; but guessing, by the cessation of the noise, that the storm was past, we set about digging a passage to light of day again, which we effected in a very short time, and ascending, perceived that the whole had been so completely covered with the sand, that there appeared no hills, but one continued plain, with inequalities or ridges on it like the waves of the sea. We soon extricated our vehicle and retinue from the burning sands, but not without great danger, as

the heat was very violent, and began to proceed on our voyage. Storms of sand of a similar nature several times attacked us, but by using the same precautions we preserved ourselves repeatedly from destruction. Having traveled more than nine thousand miles over this inhospitable plain, exposed to the perpendicular rays of a burning sun, without ever meeting a rivulet, or a shower from heaven to refresh us, we at length became almost desperate, when, to our inexpressible joy, we beheld some mountains at a great distance, and on our nearer approach observed them covered with a carpet of verdure and groves and woods. Nothing could appear more romantic or beautiful than the rocks and precipices intermingled with flowers and shrubs of every kind, and palm-trees of such a prodigious size as to surpass anything ever seen in Europe. Fruits of all kinds appeared growing wild in the utmost abundance, and antelopes and sheep and buffaloes wandered about the groves and valleys in profusion. The trees resounded with the melody of birds, and everything displayed a general scene of rural happiness and joy.

PEGGING DOWN AN ISLAND

Our company embarked in the machines before described, in which we had journeyed into Africa, and after a few days' sail arrived in North America. We met with nothing curious on our voyage, except a floating island, containing some very delightful villages, inhabited by a few whites and negroes; the sugar cane did not thrive there well, on account, as I was informed, of the variety of the climates; the island being sometimes driven up as far as the north pole, and at other times wafted under the equinoctial. In pity to the poor islanders, I got a huge stake of iron, and driving it through the center of the island, fastened it to the rocks and mud at the bottom of the sea, since which time the island has become stationary, and is well known at present by the name of St. Christopher's, and there is not an island more secure.

THE BARON IN THE UNITED STATES

Arriving in North America, we were received by the President of the United States with every honor and politeness. He was pleased to

give us all the information possible relative to the woods and immense regions of America, and ordered troops of the different tribes of the Eskimos to guide us through the forests.

HOW MUNCHAUSEN DUG THE PANAMA CANAL IN 1792

We never stopped until we arrived at Kamchatka; thence we passed to Otaheite. I met my old acquaintance Omai, who had been in England with the great navigator, Cook, and I was glad to find he had established Sunday schools over all the islands. I talked to him of Europe, and his former voyage to England. "Ah!" said he, most emphatically, "the English, the cruel English, to murder me with goodness, and refine upon my torture—took me to Europe, and showed me the court of England, the delicacy of exquisite life: they showed me gods, and showed me heaven, as if on purpose to make me feel the loss of them."

From these islands we set out, attended by a fleet of canoes with fighting-stages and the chiefest warriors of the islands, commanded by Omai. Thus the chariot of Queen Mab, my

team of bulls and the crickets, the ark, the Sphinx, and the balloons, with Hilaro Frosticos, Gog and Magog, Lord Whittington, and the Lord Mayor's show, Don Quixote, &c., with my fleet of canoes, altogether cut a very formidable appearance on our arrival at the Isthmus of Darien. Sensible of what general benefit it would be to mankind, I immediately formed a plan of cutting a canal across the isthmus from sea to sea.

For this purpose I drove my chariot with the greatest impetuosity repeatedly from shore to shore, in the same track, tearing up the rocks and earth thereby, and forming a tolerable bed for the water. Gog and Magog next advanced at the head of a million of people from the realms of North and South America, and from Europe, and with infinite labor cleared away the earth, &c., that I had plowed up with my chariot. I then again drove my chariot, making the canal wider and deeper, and ordered Gog and Magog to repeat their labor as before. The canal being a quarter of a mile broad, and three hundred yards in depth, I thought it sufficient, and immediately let in the waters of

the sea. I did imagine, that from the rotary motion of the earth on its axis from west to east, the sea would be higher on the eastern than the western coast, and that on the uniting of the two seas there would be a strong current from the east, and it happened just as I expected. The sea came in with tremendous magnificence, and enlarged the bounds of the canal, so as to make a passage of some miles broad from ocean to ocean, and make an island of South America. Several sail of trading vessels and men-of-war sailed through this new channel to the South Seas, China, &c., and saluted me with all their cannon as they passed.

I looked through my telescope at the moon, and perceived the philosophers there in great commotion. They could plainly discern the alteration on the surface of our globe, and thought themselves somehow interested in the enterprise of their fellow-mortals in a neighboring planet. They seemed to think it admirable that such little beings as we men should attempt so magnificent a performance, that would be observable even in a separate world.

HOW HE AFTERWARD DUG THE SUEZ CANAL

Seized with a fury of canal-cutting, I took it in my head to form an immediate communication between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, and therefore set out for Petersburg.

The sanguinary ambition of the Empress would not listen to my proposals, until I took a private opportunity, taking a cup of coffee with her Majesty, to tell her that I would absolutely sacrifice myself for the general good of mankind, and if she would accede to my proposals, would, on the completion of the canal, ipso facto, give her my hand in marriage!

"My dear, dear Baron," said she, "I accede to everything you please, and agree to make peace with the Porte on the conditions you mention. And," added she, rising with all the majesty of the Czarina, Empress of half the world, "be it known to all subjects, that We ordain these conditions, for such is our royal will and pleasure."

I now proceeded to the Isthmus of Suez, at the head of a million of Russian pioneers, and there united my forces with a million of Turks,

armed with shovels and pickaxes. They did not come to cut each other's throats, but for their mutual interest, to facilitate commerce and civilization, and pour all the wealth of India by a new channel into Europe. "My brave fellows," said I, "consider the immense labor of the Chinese to build their celebrated wall; think of what superior benefit to mankind is our present undertaking; persevere, and fortune will second your endeavors. Remember it is Munchausen who leads you on, and be convinced of success."

TIPPOO SAHIB'S LAST FIGHT

Having made a track with my chariot from sea to sea, I ordered my Turks and Russians to begin, and in a few hours we had the pleasure of seeing a fleet of British East Indiamen in full sail through the canal. The officers of this fleet were very polite, and paid me every applause and congratulation my exploits could merit. They told me of their affairs in India, and the ferocity of that dreadful warrior, Tippoo Sahib, on which I resolved to go to India and encounter the tyrant. I traveled down the

Red Sea to Madras, and at the head of a few Sepoys and Europeans pursued the flying army of Tippoo to the gates of Seringapatam. I challenged him to mortal combat, and, mounted on my steed, rode up to the walls of the fortress amidst a storm of shells and cannon-balls. As fast as the bombs and cannon-balls came upon me, I caught them in my hands like so many pebbles, and throwing them against the fortress, demolished the strongest ramparts of the place. Whenever I aimed a cannon-ball or a shell at any person on the ramparts I was sure to hit him: and one time perceiving a tremendous piece of artillery pointed against me, and knowing the ball must be so great it would certainly stun me, I took a small cannon-ball, and just as I perceived the engineer going to order them to fire, and opening his mouth to give the word of command, I took aim and drove my ball precisely down his throat.

Tippoo, fearing that all would be lost, that a general and successful storm would ensue if I continued to batter the place, came forth upon his elephant to fight me; I saluted him, and insisted he should fire first.

Tippoo, though a barbarian, was not deficient in politeness, and declined the compliment; upon which I took off my hat, and bowing, told him it was an advantage Munchausen should never be said to accept from so gallant a warrior: on which Tippoo instantly discharged his carbine, the ball from which, hitting my horse's ear, made him plunge with rage and indignation. In return I discharged my pistol at Tippoo, and shot off his turban. He had a small field-piece mounted with him on his elephant, which he then discharged at me, and the grape-shot coming in a shower, rattled in the laurels that covered and shaded me all over, and remained pendent like berries on the branches. I then advancing, took the proboscis of his elephant, and turning it against the rider, struck him repeatedly with the extremity of it on either side of the head, until I at length dismounted him. Nothing could equal the rage of the barbarian finding himself thrown from his elephant. He rose in a fit of despair, and rushed against my steed and myself: but I scorned to fight him at so great a disadvantage on his side, and directly dismounted to fight him hand

to hand. Never did I fight with any man who bore himself more nobly than this adversary; he parried my blows, and dealt home his own in return with astonishing precision. The first blow of his saber I received upon the bridge of my nose, and but for the bony firmness of that part of my face, it would have descended to my mouth. I still bear the mark upon my nose.

He next made a furious blow at my head, but I, parrying, deadened the force of his saber, so that I received but one scar on my forehead, and at the same instant, by a blow of my sword, cut off his arm, and his hand and saber fell to the earth; he tottered for some paces, and dropped at the foot of his elephant. That sagacious animal, seeing the danger of his master, endeavored to protect him by flourishing his proboscis round the head of the Sultan.

Fearless I advanced against the elephant, desirous to take alive the haughty Tippoo Sahib; but he drew a pistol from his belt, and discharged it full in my face as I rushed upon him, which did me no further harm than wound my cheek-bone, which disfigures me somewhat under my left eye. I could not withstand the

rage and impulse of that moment, and with one blow of my sword separated his head from his body.

I returned overland from India to Europe with admirable velocity, so that the account of Tippoo's defeat by me has not as yet arrived by the ordinary passage, nor can you expect to hear of it for a considerable time. I simply relate the encounter as it happened between the Sultan and me; and if there be any one who doubts the truth of what I say, he is an infidel, and I will fight him at any time and place, and with any weapon he pleases.

NOTES

PAGE 2. *for veracity:* it used to be customary in legal documents to use italics for some words that were not especially emphatic. On this page the italics help the fun. Veracity means truthfulness.

the profit: a joke for *prophet*, of course. "Believers in the prophets" means Jews or Christians; but "believers in the prophet" means Mohammedans.

true believers: a name given to Mohammedans; it has here another meaning too.

× : the crosses mean that these men did not know how to write, so in signing their names they made crosses and let somebody else write the names.

9th Nov.: the Lord Mayor of London begins his term of office on November 9, and leads a very grand procession through the streets on that day (see note to page 102), so that he cannot be attending to business.

PAGE 4. *laid:* good English would be *lay*. The Baron, being a German, is sometimes a little weak on English.

PAGE 6. *Eastland:* not named from being in the east, but from the Est or Eest or Ehst or Esth nation, who live there. Called Estonia in good English.

making after: chasing.

ate: in good English *eaten*.

PAGE 8. *piece:* an old word for a gun.

the flint had sprang from the cock: see page xxiii.

fifty brace: a brace is two birds. Notice that he counts his ducks by the brace, his teals by the couple, and his widgeons by the number of birds; this is real old-fashioned

hunting language, to have for the counting of each sort of game a special word that belongs to that creature. Widgeons and teals are particular kinds of ducks; the birds that he calls ducks are the common wild duck.

PAGE 11. *stars:* see note to page 89.

his knights: the order of Knights of St. Hubert is a very high honor in Bavaria.

charged: loaded.

PAGE 12. *haunch:* the ham of a deer.

dilemma: originally, an argument to prove that whichever way you choose, the result is the same; in common language, a troublesome situation in which it is hard to tell what to do.

PAGE 15. *saw him:* the mad cloak, not the servant.

his stars: it used to be believed that a person's luck depended on the stars that were shining when he was born, and especially on those (called "in the ascendant") that rose when he was less than an hour old.

PAGE 16. *coursing her:* using her in coursing. Coursing is hunting with swift dogs that catch sight of the game and run it down by speed.

terrier: a terrier is a small dog used by hunters to go into the burrows of animals.

in which quality: in which capacity, for which purpose, "as such."

PAGE 17. *horse of blood:* thoroughbred horse, horse whose ancestors are known to have been of the best stock.

stud: horse-breeding establishment. A Lithuanian nobleman would naturally have a stud of his own.

PAGE 19. *Count Munich:* see page xviii.

ominous: fit for a sign of what was to come. The word is usually applied to a sign of bad luck; here, to a sign of good.

Bucephalus: the name of an ancient Greek breed of fine horses. Alexander the Great had a Bucephalus that was his favorite horse; Alexander had tamed it when it was so wild,

they say, that nobody else dared try to tame it. When people say "Bucephalus" now they mean Alexander's horse.

PAGE 20. *retrieve:* bring back, restore, make good again.

character: he means reputation.

Czar Peter's last campaign: see page xvi.

quidnuncs: people who make a specialty of knowing all the news, or whatever they can pick up in talk.

coffee-house politicians: people who go to a coffee-house to sit and talk about public affairs. When this was written, "politician" did not so much mean a man hunting for votes; and coffee-houses had for a hundred years been the most fashionable places in England for men to get together in.

contemptible idea: an idea that is too foolish to pay any attention to. Some people confuse this with *contemptuous idea*, that is, an idea that somebody or something is to be despised.

PAGE 21. *hussars:* a sort of cavalry.

with discretionary powers: with authority to do as he thought best.

van: the front of an army.

PAGE 22. *to rendezvous:* to take that place for meeting when the pursuit was over. Probably the Baron is using the word carelessly and means that they should rally round him at once and not continue to scatter.

PAGE 23. *portcullis:* a sort of extra gate to a fortress, sliding up and down like a window, and made of a grating of heavy timbers and heavy iron bars.

farrier: a horse-shoer, a horse-doctor, or a cavalry officer appointed to look after the horses of the regiment.

laurels: the real European laurel (not much like our American "laurel") has always been used for decorations of honor, so that "winning laurels" means winning honors, winning fame, as on page 29.

PAGE 24. *against night:* to be ready for night; or, if the Baron has put a little German into his English, he may mean simply "toward night."

offensive weapon: a weapon. "Offensive" means that it was to be used for fighting and hurting the enemy, not merely for defense like a shield.

Turkey-beans: Turkish beans. "Turkish beans" is German for scarlet runner beans.

PAGE 25. *nine fathoms:* a fathom is six feet. Think of some building whose height is equal to the depth of the Baron's hole.

PAGE 26. *that singular revolution:* see pages xviii-xix.

traveled post: traveled by the teams that were kept for post-office service. Railroads were not yet invented.

bid: ordered; past tense of the verb *bid*, whose better past tense is *bade*.

the postilion: the driver of the post-office team.

horn: postilions used to blow a horn for the same purposes as a steamboat sounds her whistle. They were apt to play a tune on the horn, often very musically.

PAGE 27. *proceeding:* going ahead.

put to: hitched up, harnessed the horses to the coach.

the end of our stage: the place where we changed horses. A stage is the journey from one such place to another. Stage-coaches were named from this.

PAGE 28. *The King of Prussia's March:* the king for whom this tune was named must have been Frederick the Great, who was still alive when this was written. It was not till 1871 that the kings of Prussia became emperors over Germany.

PAGE 29. *siege of Gibraltar:* see page xxix.

refracting telescope: a long name for a good spy-glass.

Dollond: see page xxxi.

thirty-six-pounder: a cannon that would throw a thirty-six-pound ball.

conjectures: guesses.

PAGE 30. *the match placed at the touch-hole:* see pages xxii, xxiii.

Barbary coast: the west half of the north coast of Africa, named not from barbarism but from the Berber race who live there.

PAGE 32. *given me a commission:* made me an officer in the army.

PAGE 33. *Captain Phipps:* see page xxx.

now Lord Mulgrave: Lord Mulgrave's family name was Phipps (an English nobleman's family name is not generally the same as his title), consequently Lord Mulgrave's son was Captain Phipps; and when old Lord Mulgrave died, his death left his son to be the new Lord Mulgrave.

carbine: a small rifle — too small for bears.

hazardous: risky.

beyond expression: more than words can tell.

PAGE 34. *presenting:* aiming, or putting it up ready to aim; not like "present arms" in the army.

pericranium: brain-case, skull.

PAGE 37. *slain my thousands:* Samson in the Bible, after a great fight, says "I have slain a thousand men." Another part of the Bible says "Saul hath slain his thousands." Newspaper headlines nowadays use "slay" as if it meant "murder"; this is wrong, for "slay" means "kill" without regard to whether the killing is murder or any other sort of killing.

three parts: three quarters.

I doubt not but the whole would eat as well: I do not doubt that the whole would be as good eating.

cured: salted, smoked, etc.

Tott: a traveler who wrote "Memoirs on the Turks and Tartars," published in French in 1784 and in English in 1785.

PAGE 38. *piece of ordnance:* cannon.

Pasha: Turkish word for an officer in high command.

PAGE 40. *fathom:* see notes to page 25 and page 53.

PAGE 41. *Grand Seignior:* the Sultan of Turkey.

weighing anchor: lifting the anchor from the bottom of the sea.

miscarried: made a failure.

no impeachment of: nothing discreditable to.

would not: do not want to.

foreigner: the French, like the Spanish, were helping the Americans in the Revolutionary War, so that an Englishman could not safely travel in France; but Munchausen, who was a German, could.

PAGE 42. *retaliate:* to pay one back in his own coin.

pointer: a sort of dog so called because when it smells game it will "point," that is, stand perfectly still in a peculiar attitude to give its master notice of the game.

PAGE 43. *observations:* ships at sea tell where they are by seeing how high the sun is at noon, and by seeing how high in the sky some stars are and at the same time how far the moon is from some star. Now that ships' clocks have been made very reliable, the stars are usually observed without observing the moon.

leagues: a league is about three miles.

laying: betting.

viz.: namely, that is. The abbreviation is pronounced either *videlicet* (vĭ dĕl'ĭ sĕt) or *namely*.

guineas: a guinea is about $5.10.

PAGE 44. *brace:* see note to page 8.

hens: hen partridges, mother birds.

PAGE 46. *Brobdingnag:* the book of "Gulliver's Travels" tells how Captain Gulliver went to Brobdingnag where all the people and things were twelve times as big as they are here, and to Lilliput where they were only one twelfth as big as they are here.

PAGE 47. *South Seas:* the Pacific Ocean (named so because it is south of Panama).

Captain Cook: see page xxx.

Omai: see page xxxii.

PAGE 48. *sheet:* a ship's sheets are some of the ropes; Munchausen, who says "wide," must think the word means sails.

burthen: an old word for "load." The meaning is that the length and breadth of the ship as measured for taxation were such as were supposed to go with a load of 600 tons; the ship might in fact be able to carry safely a much larger load.

Luna: Latin for moon. The ancients, some of them, thought the moon was a goddess; hence "Madam."

commission: see note to page 32.

PAGE 50. *caldron:* kettle.

clown: as in Shakespeare, not a professional fun-maker but a low-grade farm-hand.

themselves: "himself" would be better English.

those of rank or quality: noblemen and noblewomen ("rank") and others of the upper classes ("quality").

PAGE 51. *incog.:* short for *incognito*, meaning "without anybody's professing to know who it really is."

whimsical: inclined to fads and fancies.

St. Luke's: a lunatic asylum in London. When this part of "Munchausen" was written the building of St. Luke's was two years old and was being greatly admired and praised.

PAGE 52. *the present king's reign:* since the reign of King George the Third began in 1760, this visit was about twenty years before the siege of Gibraltar.

took the Tower Wharf in my way: went to the Tower Wharf on my way. The Tower of London, on the river Thames, is headquarters in London for military ceremonies.

to compose me: to quiet down.

the fourth of June: the birthday of King George the Third.

charged: loaded.

PAGE 53. *five hundred load:* language was once used in this way in counting measures of various kinds, as "five mile," "five bushel," "five pound." Today we say "five hundred loads," "five miles," etc., though we still say "five dozen" for five dozens.

detestable: the English used to think that farmers ought to sell food cheap so that everybody could have plenty, and a man who kept it till he could get a higher price was a rascal. People now understand that selling too cheap at one time makes prices too high at another time.

PAGE 54. *Drybones:* this is not a real name.

Etna: a famous volcano in the island of Sicily.

Devil's Punch-Bowl: a deep hollow in the sand, covered with ferns; on a map it seems to be about a mile wide and two miles long. The road now runs through a corner of the Bowl; in Munchausen's time it ran along the edge.

PAGE 55. *imprecations:* curses.

Vulcan: in the ancient heathenism Vulcan was the god of fire and manufactures, and Venus, the goddess of love and beauty, was his wife; Vulcan had his blacksmith shop under Etna, where the one-eyed giants called Cyclo'pes or Cyclops worked for him.

and which had occasioned: this, used as it is used here, is very bad English.

PAGE 56. *nectar:* the special drink of the gods. Various things are called nectar now because they are supposed to be fit for gods.

PAGE 59. *and which:* bad English here for "and one which."

his grimace: the face he made up. When the Baron wrote "his" he had forgotten that he began this part of his sentence with "some"; he is now thinking only of the captain. This sort of carelessness, in which you begin a sentence on one plan and then finish it as if you had started on a different plan, is called anacoluthon.

administering to: waiting on, caring for, providing for.

PAGE 60. *felons:* the worst criminals. On felons at Botany Bay see page xxxii.

forty knots an hour: forty sea miles (each 800 feet longer than a land mile) an hour. The old way to find a ship's speed is to throw overboard a piece of wood called a log, with a string tied to it; there are knots on the string. As the ship leaves the log behind, the string runs out; and if the knots are 47.3 feet apart, the number of knots that run out in 28 seconds is the number of miles an hour that the ship is making, and we say "so many knots an hour."

PAGE 61. *effluvia:* smells. More often the word means bad smells.

PAGE 62. *exercise:* use as a weapon, showing skill in attacking and parrying. This is an old meaning of "exercise"; it was never the commonest meaning, and "Munchausen" is perhaps the last book in which the word was ever written with this meaning.

PAGE 63. *curiously:* ingeniously and carefully; another old meaning.

within compass: within bounds, not extravagantly.

PAGE 64. *three men hanging:* this story, and the reason why it did not worry Munchausen, are copied out of Lucian's "True History," written about the year 200. So are the cheese island, the trip to the moon, the story of the ships inside the monster, and some of the other things in the Second Part.

PAGE 65. *bent:* set.

PAGE 66. *burthen:* see note to page 48.

PAGE 69. *subterraneous:* subterranean, underground.

licking his paws: bears have a habit of sucking their paws, and it used to be imagined that when they had no other food they fed themselves by sucking something out of the paws.

pointer: see note to page 42.

he had just set: the dog had just indicated for the hunter to shoot at.

involuntarily: without my trying to have it.

PAGE 70. *against:* to be ready for the time when.

a leash: three birds.

spitted: when meat is not baked but roasted it is generally held up to the fire by having an iron rod called a spit stuck through it. This was one of the commonest ways to cook meat before cookstoves were invented.

PAGE 71. *the Isle of Thanet:* a bit of the southeast coast of England, cut off from the rest of England by two branches of a small river.

PAGE 72. *gain:* get to.

effected: accomplished.

this evergreen: that is, the ivy. In the northernmost part of the United States we have no tall evergreens except the cone-bearing trees; but in most parts of the world there are other evergreens.

drop a stone down: a stone falls 1 × 1 × 16 ft. in 1 second, 2 × 2 × 16 ft. in 2 seconds, 3 × 3 × 16 ft. in 3 seconds, and so on for any moderate distance; hence the depth of a hole or precipice can be told by dropping a stone and seeing how soon you hear it strike.

PAGE 73. *musketry:* guns such as soldiers used to have.

marines: soldiers who are kept on ships of war.

PAGE 74. *Channel:* the narrowest part of the English Channel, between Dover in England and Calais in France, is called "Straits of Dover" on maps, but steamboats that run across it are called "Channel steamers," and swimming across it is called "swimming the English Channel."

disengaging myself: getting loose from it.

south-west: follow this whole journey on a map of the world.

PAGE 75. *invested:* wrapped around.

PAGE 76. *and looking:* not good English.

PAGE 77. *Teneriffe:* a high mountain in the Canary Islands near the northwest coast of Africa.

determined me: caused me to decide.

fascinating: originally the word "fascinate" meant the action by which, according to a superstition found among the ignorant in many countries, the look of a person's eye (often a very friendly person's eye) may bring disease or bad luck. When some people grew less superstitious they began to use "fascinate" as we might now use "hypnotize"; so here in our book the sense is what we would mean by "hypnotizing power." From this meaning grew the meaning that "fascinate" now has.

horizon: see note to page 97.

Terra Firma: that part of South America which touches the Caribbean Sea, together with the whole Isthmus of Panama.

but just: barely, only just.

PAGE 80. *mountain wine:* a sweet white wine from Malaga. It was often called simply "mountain," as on page 85.

PAGE 81. *elevated:* tipsy.

the two smaller ones: he had not spoken of these smaller ones before. He can hardly mean the two beef fruits. Perhaps the word "the" has been put in by mistake.

PAGE 82. *a draft:* a drink.

the Company: see page xxvii.

and become: that is, "and was become," which is old English for "and had become."

Greenlandmen: whaling ships.

PAGE 83. *north-west passage:* see page xxx.

pregnant with: going to produce.

PAGE 84. *insensible of:* unconscious of.

sensible: conscious.

PAGE 85. *composing:* settling.

PAGE 86. *Western Isles:* the Hebrides, west of Scotland. Not the same as the "Western Islands" from which Portuguese people come to New England; those are the Azores.

PAGE 88. *viceroyship:* governorship.

Queen Mab: a queen of the fairies.

the tun of Heidelberg: a tremendous barrel, the biggest that ever was made. It holds 49,000 gallons.

PAGE 89. *enormity:* enormousness; "enormity" now has a different meaning.

Mahomet: Mohammed. The Mohammedans know where his tomb is in the city of Medina, but in Europe there is an old story that his body is in an iron coffin held up in the air by magnets somewhere above it.

those worn etc.: the jewelry "stars" (mostly four-pointed) that are badges of the principal English orders of knighthood are between two and three inches across.

PAGE 90. *epitome:* a summing up.

Mowmowsky: the real Munchausen was used to Russian names, but the later parts of the book think those names very funny.

PAGE 91. *Jacks:* Jack stands for John, and "John Bull" means an Englishman. But perhaps this is not what Munchausen was thinking of.

postilions: see Vocabulary.

impetuosity: disposition to be moving vigorously.

that of Strasburg: the great church clock at Strasbourg shows the movements of the sun and moon, and of the moving stars, or planets.

Vaillant: a French balloonist. See page xxxi.

PAGE 92. *pillar of Pompey:* what is called Pompey's Pillar is really many hundred years older than Pompey. It is a pillar of such great blocks of stone that if it fell down we could not easily find machinery strong enough to put it together.

artists: skilled workmen.

most astonishing: see, for example, note on "pillar of Pompey."

overland, and: he means *over land, and*. Very likely he wrote it so, and his printer thought that "overland" ought always to be one word; such things do happen in printing.

eligible: preferable, advisable, the right thing to choose.

Dutch: South Africa belonged to the Dutch till the time of Napoleon, when the English, who were at war with Napoleon, took South Africa because Napoleon was making the Dutch help him.

PAGE 93. *Neptune:* the god of the sea in the ancient heathenism.

Table Mountain: many of the mountains of South Africa have perfectly flat tops; the most famous is Table Mountain close to Cape Town.

Lusiad: the most famous of Portuguese poems. It is about Vasco da Gama's voyage of discovery when he found the way round the Cape of Good Hope. In that poem a

gigantic figure appears and says "I am this great Cape; to punish you for intruding into my domain, I will always wreck many of the ships that try to pass me."

PAGE 94. *superior:* upper.

Indiaman: see the notes to pages 82 and 105.

Privy Council: a great committee of the English government, supposed to stand closest to the king and to attend to various pieces of business, which are in fact done by smaller committees in the Privy Council's name.

Guinea: the west coast of Africa near the equator.

PAGE 95. *promontory:* headland, projecting height; properly, a high point running out into the water.

PAGE 96. *oakum:* fibers from worn-out ropes.

dregs: refuse, waste.

liquefying: melting.

exotic: foreign, belonging to a foreign climate.

bread-fruit: see page xxx.

PAGE 97. *scurvy:* a disease that comes to people who cannot get fruit, vegetables, fresh milk, or some such food. See pages xxix, xxx.

extreme fine: extremely fine. The word "extreme" was often used in this way before Munchausen's time, but hardly later than that.

verge: edge.

horizon: the edge of the part of the earth we can see. There was no need of the word "verge."

PAGE 98. *covered over:* "over" goes with "covered," not with "the mound"; so put the same accent on "over" in reading here as you did on "over" in the seventh line of the page.

PAGE 99. *nine thousand:* the whole length of Africa is only five thousand miles.

PAGE 100. *equinoctial:* the equator.

United States: this was published in 1792. Who was president then? How many states were there in the Union, and how much of the country was still wilderness? The English

then, and all the time till the war of 1861, were more disposed to laugh at the United States than to learn about it; what Munchausen says is entirely good-natured, but he had no business to think the red men in our forests were Eskimos.

PAGE 102. *Hilaro Frosticos:* a nonsense name for an English nobleman who was with Munchausen. It seems to be intended to make fun of some real man.

Gog and Magog: two big wooden statues in London that came to life to accompany Munchausen.

the Lord Mayor's show: a gorgeous pageant that is exhibited when a new Lord Mayor of London takes office. One of the characters is Whittington, the famous mayor who, according to the old story, began life as a poor boy.

Don Quixote: a crazy man in a famous story. He went out trying to do the same sort of things that the knights in old stories used to do.

Isthmus of Darien: the Isthmus of Panama.

sensible: conscious, aware.

PAGE 104. *ipso facto:* just for that.

in marriage: see page xix.

Porte: the Turkish government.

pioneers: soldiers whose special business is trench-digging and road-making.

PAGE 105. *wall:* the great wall along the north side of China has been said to be the only thing made by men that a man in the moon could see with a telescope.

East Indiamen: ships that sail to and from India.

Tippoo Sahib: see page xxviii.

PAGE 106. *Sepoys:* native soldiers in India.

Seringapatam: Tippoo Sahib's capital city.

PAGE 107. *field-piece:* a cannon small enough to be carried around with an army.

pendent: hanging.

proboscis: trunk.

PAGE 109. *I will fight him:* see page xiii.

PARTS OF LONDON

KEY TO PRONUNCIATION

ā, ē, ī, ō, ū, ȳ, as in fāke, chēat, līe, hōax, cūrious, lȳing. ă, ĕ, ĭ, ŏ, ŭ, ў, as in făct, strĕtch, kĭd, hŏnest, hŭmbug, unlikelў. â, ê, î, ô, û, as in accurâte, rêality, unscîentific, ôpinion, genûine. ē, ī, û, ȳ, as in cērtain, cīrcumstances, absûrd, mȳrtle (all four having the same sound). ạ, ẹ, as in improbạble, misstatemẹnt; i̱, u̱, as in ingeni̱ous, qu̱eer. ä as in yärn, å as in crâfty, ạ as in fạlse, ạ as in wạrrant; ī as in machīne; ô as in misinfôrm, ȯ as in fictiȯn, o͞o as in bambo͞ozle; ú[1] as in delúde, u̱ as in tru̱th, u̱ as in deceitfu̱l; s̱ as in lies̱, x̱ as in ex̱aggerate, ç as in deçeive, ġ as in forgery, ŋ or ng (ŋ is printed n in ordinary print) as in thiŋking (thinking), ʒ (printed s or z in ordinary print) as in delu͟sion (delusion), th as in another; tion as in exaggeration. Letters in italic type are silent.

[1] Dictionaries ordinarily mark ū for ú; but all dictionaries and other first-class authorities agree that the proper sound is different from ū, though they disagree as to whether it is just like u̱ or more nearly like ū.

PRONOUNCING VOCABULARY AND INDEX

The figures following the definitions are the pages on which the word in question is used, or on which something may be learned about it.

The pronunciation given for foreign names is for the use of those who do not know how to make the special sounds of the foreign languages; it is, in general, as nearly right as they can get until they learn these sounds. Those who know how to make these sounds will know by the spelling how to pronounce the names, at least in the case of names from the more familiar languages. Those who can learn these sounds had better do so; learning the sounds of one foreign language helps in the learning of other languages, since they are apt to have some of the same sounds.

Ăb′ŷs sĭn′ĭ ą: a mountain country in Africa, which has now taken the name of Ethiopia. xii, xxxi

ăch′rō măt′ĭc: not making colors. xxxi

ăn′ą cō lú′thŏn: giving the later part of a sentence a shape that does not match the earlier part. 118

Är cŏt′: a city in southeastern India. xxvi

Ä′zōf: a port on the north side of the Black Sea. xv, xvi, xviii

Ą̂ zōrę̣s′: islands between Spain and America, also called the Western Islands. 121

Bäb′-ĕl-Män′dĕb: the strait at the south end of the Red Sea. 93

Bĕn gą̣l′: the richest part of India, round the mouth of the Ganges. xxvii

Bĕr′mônd ę̣ey̆: the east part of central London south of the river. In Munchausen's time all the ground

south of the river that is now part of London was suburbs outside the city. 52

bĕv'ĕr ăġe: a drink. 51

Bĭ'rẹn: a Courland stableman's grandson; favorite of Empress Anne; duke of Courland; for three weeks regent of Russia over the baby tsar. xviii

Brandenburg (brän'dẹnbụrk): the central province of Prussia; what is now called Prussia was called Brandenburg till 1701. xxvi

Brieg (brēk): a town in Silesia with a castle. xxvi

Brŏb'dĭng năg: a country described in "Gulliver's Travels," where, if you believe Gulliver, men are seventy feet tall, and everything else in proportion. 46

Bru'ĭn: a name for a bear. Originally the name of the bear in the story of "Reynard the Fox." 36

Bŭ çĕph'ạ lŭs: Alexander the Great's famous horse. 19, 112

Căl'*aĭs*: the French seaport that is nearest England. 41, 74

cạl'drŏn: a big kettle. 50

cär'bīne: a small rifle. 33, 107

çĕs'sā'tion: stopping. 98

*ch*ăşm: a great gap in the ground. 72

çĭr'cŭm jā'çẹnt: lying round about. 72

Clīve: the great English general in the conquest of India. xxvi, xxvii, xxviii

cŏm'*m*ạn dänt: the officer in command of a permanent fortified place. xix

cŏn'fīneş: edge. 76, 97

Cọur'lạnd: western and southern Latvia. xviii, 3

cov'*eў*: a flock of certain kinds of birds. 69, 70

Çy'clŏps: a one-eyed giant. Plural sometimes Cyclops, but better Cyclō'pēş. 55

Czä rī'nạ: the tsaritsa, the empress of Russia. "Tsaritsa" is the Russian word; "czarina" is a mixture of Polish and French, commonly used in English. 104

Dā'rĭ ĕn: the district at the east end of the Isthmus of Panama. 102

dĭs crē'tion ă rў power: power to do whatever seems best. 21

Dŏl'lond: inventor and maker of the best spy-glasses. xxxi, 29

Dupleix (dĭ plĕx′) : a French commander who started to conquer India. xxv

Ēast′lạnd : a mistake for German Estland (āst′lânt), English Ēs tō′nĭạ, the country of the Est (āst) nation, east of the Baltic Sea. 6

ĕf flụ′vĭ ạ : what goes off into the air from anything, especially if it has a bad smell. 61

ē pĭt′ō mē : a short summing up. 90

ex ŏt′ĭc : foreign. 96

ĕx′trĭ cā tĕd : got out (something that was stuck fast or tangled in). 98

făth′ŏm : six feet. 25, 40, 94

fīght′ĭng-stāge : a platform resting on two canoes, to carry a party of warriors. 101

Ġĕr māin′ : a stubborn nobleman who managed the English side of the Revolutionary War. In 1760 he had been forbidden to belong to the army because when he commanded the cavalry in a great battle he was in such a sulky temper that he would not let his men fight. xxix

Ġĭ bral′tạr : a rocky fortress on the south coast of Spain. xxiv, xxix, 29, 75

Grănd Seignior (sē′nyẽr) : the Sultan of Turkey. 41

grĭ māçe′ : a wry face. 59

Gŭl′lĭ vẽr : an English sea-captain who, according to a book written by Jonathan Swift, sailed to several countries where nature is in various ways opposite to what it is in our world. 2, 46, 116

Hăn′ŏ vẽr : a country in the northwest part of Germany. From 1714 to 1837 whoever was king of England was elector (that is, king) of Hanover, so that Hanover had a great deal to do with England. xi

häunch : the ham of a deer. 12

Hĕb′rĭ dēs : islands west of Scotland. 121

Heidelberg (hī′dẹl bĕrk) : a German city on the river Rhine. 88

hĭd′ē oŭs : ugly, frightful. 33, 95

Hĭ lā′rō (more likely than Hĭl′ạ rō ; Hilä′ro not likely at all) Frŏs′tĭ cŏs : an English nobleman in the last

part of "Munchausen." 102

hŭs ṣär′: a kind of cavalry soldier. 21

Hȳ′dĕr Ä′lī: a Mohammedan ruler in southern India, a great fighter. xxviii, xxix

ĭm pĕt′ů ŏs′ĭ tȳ: headlong speed. 67, 91, 93, 98, 102

ĭn cŏg.′: not recognized; short for ĭn cŏg′nĭ tō. 51

Ĭn′dĭeṣ: either India and the coasts and islands east of it ("East Indies," the real Indies) or the islands that Columbus came to ("West Indies"). 42

Iŋ′grĭ ą, in German Ingermannland (ĭŋ′ɐr mån lånt′; in most copies of "Munchausen" misprinted "Jugemanland"; in our book pronounce the "land" as in English): the country immediately south of Leningrad. xvii, 6

Ĭ vån′: Russian for "John." xviii, xix

Ĭz mä ĭl′: a strong city on the north side of the delta of the river Danube. xix

Kăl′mŭck: a Mongol tribe. Many of them live in the "Kalmuck Steppe" round the mouth of the Volga; more of them in Eastern Turkestan. 68

lēague: three miles. 43, 47, 57, 61

Leuthen (loi′tęn): a village near Breslau, where Frederick the Great won one of his greatest victories. xxiii

Lĭth′ ů ā′nĭ ąn: of Lithuania, a country northeast of Poland. xvi, 17, 21–22

Lucian (lú′tion): a Syrian who wrote lively books in Greek, about the year 200. 119

Lú′ną: the moon, regarded as a goddess. 48

Lú′sĭ ăd: the great epic poem of Portugal. 93

Mą drȧs′: a city on the southeast coast of India, the capital of one of the three parts of India. xxv, 106

Mā′hȯ mĕt (English pronunciation; the English use this name) or Mą hŏm′ĕt (American pronunciation, but what Americans actually say is "Mohammed"): Mohammed, the Arab who started the Mohammedan religion. 89

Mäh răt′tą: a hard-fighting nation of western India. Spelled "Mahratta" in history, but "Maratha" in speaking of the people now living. xxv, xxvi

Mą rī′ą Thĕ rē′są: an energetic woman, ruler of Austria and Hungary. xxvii

mȧs′tĭff: a kind of very large smooth-skinned dog. 49

Mĕ dī′ną: a city in Arabia, where Mohammed lived at the time when he was powerful. 121

memoirs (mĕm′wŏrz): a written account of a man's recollections of what he has met with in his life. 37, 88

mĭn′ĭ ą tûre′: a very small picture, or anything on a very small scale. 90

Mĭ nôr′cą: one of the Băl ĕ ăr′ĭc Islands east of Spain. xxiv, xxix

mĭn′ŭ ĕt: a slow, stately old-fashioned dance. 47

Mô gŭl′: name of a family of emperors of India. xxv

Mô hăm′mĕ dąn: belonging to that religion whose creed is "There is no god but God, and Mohammed is God's messenger." 111, 121

monsiēur: the French word for "Mr." 91

Mowmowsky: since it is a name made up in London for fun, pronounce mow-mow′skў; if it were a real Russian name the pronunciation would probably be mŏv′môf skў. 90

Mŭl′grāve: this title belonged to the head of a branch of the Phipps family. 33, 115

Mŭn chąu′sęn, in German Münchhausen (mĭnk′how-zęn): the German nobleman who tells these stories. xi, xii, 105, 107

Mū′nĭch, in German Münnich (mĭn′ĭk): a German who became commander in chief of the Russian army. xviii, 19, 26

Mў sōre′: a large state in southern India. xxviii

Ŏ chä′kôf: a fortified town about fifty miles east of Odessa. xviii, 21

Ō′maī: a Pacific islander whom Capt. Cook brought to England for a few years. xxxii, 47, 101

Ō tą hēi′tē: what we now call Tahiti, in the Pacific Ocean. xxxii, 47, 101

Pär'lĭa ment: the law-making body of Great Britain. xxxii

pą shä': a Turkish general or similar high officer. 38

pĕr'ĭ crā'nĭ ŭm: skull, cranium, brain. Properly the membrane on the outside of the skull. 34

Pē'tẽrş bûrg: Saint Petersburg. Properly the name has "Saint" in English but not in French; the Russians have it both ways. 104

Pläs'sĕy: a village where the most famous battle in India was fought. xxvii

pōrt cŭl'lĭs: a very heavy grating made to fall down at the gate of a castle or fortress. 23, 113

Pōr'tû *guēşe*: from Portugal, or of families that came from there. 121, 122

pōs tĭl'jŏn: a coachman who rides on one of the horses instead of in the coach. 26, 91

prĕç'ĭ pĭç*e*: a rock so steep that a man could fall all the way down it. 85, 99

prĕd ĭ lĕc'tion: special fondness. 16

Pruth: a river flowing from the north into the Danube near its mouth. xvi, 20

Przobossky (pʒō bŏs'kў?): a Polish nobleman, probably imaginary; rz in Polish regularly sounds like ʒ. 17

Quixote (kē hō'tā; more exactly, as if German kicho'-tee, though this is not the German pronunciation of Quixote): a Spanish gentleman, insane about knighthood but sane on other points, in a famous story. 102

Raspe, Rudolf Erich (rụ'dŏlf ā'rĭk râs'pę): the man who first wrote about Munchausen. xi

rē'ġent: a person who manages a kingdom or other monarchy while the king is a child, or insane, or otherwise unable to govern. xviii

rĕn'dĕz *vo*ụs (or else pronounce as French): see page 113.

rĕt'ĭ nū*e*: whole company of followers or servants. 98

rīg*h*t whāl*e*: a sort of whale with long whalebone and much fat. xxx

Sā*i*nt Pē'tẽrş bûrg: the capital of Russia under Peter the Great and all the tsars

after him. It is now called Leningrad. xvi, 6, 14, 26, 69

săŋ′gŭĭ nâ rȳ: bloody, bloodthirsty. 104

săŋ′gŭĭne: enthusiastically hopeful. 22

Seignior: see Grand.

sē′poy: a Hindu soldier. 106

Sĕ rĭŋ′ga pą tăm′: Tippoo Sahib's capital city. 106

Sī bē′rĭ ą: the north part of Asia. xviii, 26

Silesia (sĭ lē′shą): a country north of Czechoslovakia. xxvi

Sĭm′ō ĭs: a small river which runs past ancient Troy and into the east side of the south end of the Dardanelles, south of the west end of the Black Sea. 38

South Seas: the Pacific. It was named "South Sea" because it is south of the Isthmus of Panama, and that is where it was first discovered. 47, 59, 103

Sphĭnx: a monstrous animal in the last additions to "Munchausen." How far it was like the traditional sphinx (a lion with a human head) is not made clear. 102

Străs′bûrg: a city on the Rhine. In French, Strâs-bo͞urg′. 91

Sŭl′tąn: a Mohammedan ruler; especially the Sultan of Turkey, but sometimes another. 24, 108, 115

Sụ vä′rôf: the most famous of Russian generals. xix, xx

Tä′hī tī: the largest of the Society Islands, in the Pacific Ocean. xxxii

Tĕn ĕr ĭf*fe*′: a mountain two and one third miles high, covering the greater part of one of the Canary Islands. 77

Thăn′ĕt: the northeast corner of that part of England which is south of the river Thames. 71

Tĭp po͞o′ Sä′*hĭ*b: a sultan in southern India, a great enemy of the English. xxviii, 105–109

Vaillant (vä yäŋ′): a French balloonist. 91

vē′hĭ cle: any contrivance that persons or things ride in on land without making a single person or animal carry their weight. 91, 93, 98

Vĕn'ĭçe: an Italian city built on several small flat muddy islands at the north end of the Adriatic Sea. Venice used to trade a great deal with Turkey. 41

Vē'nŭs: the goddess of love, Vulcan's wife. 56

vĕ răç'ĭ tў: truthfulness. 2, 52, 59, 87

vĕr'dûre: greenery. 99

Vē sū'vĭ ŭs: a volcano in southern Italy. 57

vīçe'roy shĭp: governorship. Properly *viceroy* means "substitute king," just as a vice-president is a substitute president; hence "viceroy" is a very lofty title for a governor. 88

vĭct'ụạlṣ: food (as a necessity of life). 85

Vŭl'cạn: the god of fire and metal-working. The word "volcano" comes from his name. 55

Wạp'pĭng: a part of London (it was not counted inside the city in Munchausen's time) just across the river from Bermondsey. London Bridge stops any high-masted ship coming up the river from the sea; so the great docks for the shipping of London are along the north side of the Thames for several miles below the city. 52

whĭm'ṣĭ cạl: fanciful, freakish, faddish. 51

zĕph'ŷr: a mild breeze. 76